



St. Gerard Majella Roman Catholic Church

300 Terryville Road
Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776
Phone: 631-473-2900 Fax: 631-473-0015
www.stgmajella.org

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Gregory Rannazzisi, Pastor frgreg@stgmajella.org
Rev. Vitus Ezeiruaku, *in residence*
Deacon Frank DellAglio deaconfrank@stgmajella.org
Deacon John Grebe deaconjohn@stgmajella.org
Charles Pramnieks, Music Director chuck@stgmajella.org
Deacon Carlito Roman, Pastoral Associate for Administration
deaconcarlito@stgmajella.org
Bob Paplin, Facilities Manager rpaplin@stgmajella.org
Jennifer Donnellon, Office Manager jennifer@stgmajella.org
Patty Longo, Director of Religious Ed. patty@stgmajella.org
Denise Nienburg, Thrift Shop Manager thrift@stgmajella.org
Jackie Maggiore, Receptionist secretary@stgmajella.org
Joseph Crescitelli and Dominic Fontana, Sacristans

Parish Office Hours

Monday — Thursday: 9:00am-4:30pm
Sunday: 8:00am-1:00pm
Closed Friday and Saturday

Mass & Devotions

Saturday: 5:00pm
Sunday: 8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00pm
Weekdays: 9:00am
Rosary: Monday – Friday: 8:30am
Chaplet of Divine Mercy: Monday - Friday: 9:30 am
First Saturday: 11:00am Mass with the Anointing of the Sick

Penance

The sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is celebrated on Saturdays from 3:45pm-4:45pm. You may call the Parish Office to make an appointment with one of the priests.

Baptism

Baptisms are typically held twice a month at 1:30pm. Please call the Parish Office to schedule an appointment to set a date. Selection of godparents should be made after speaking with one of the priests or deacons.

Marriage

Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements for your wedding at least six months in advance. No date can be set until the couple meets with a member of the clergy.

Parish Outreach Hours

Food Pantry

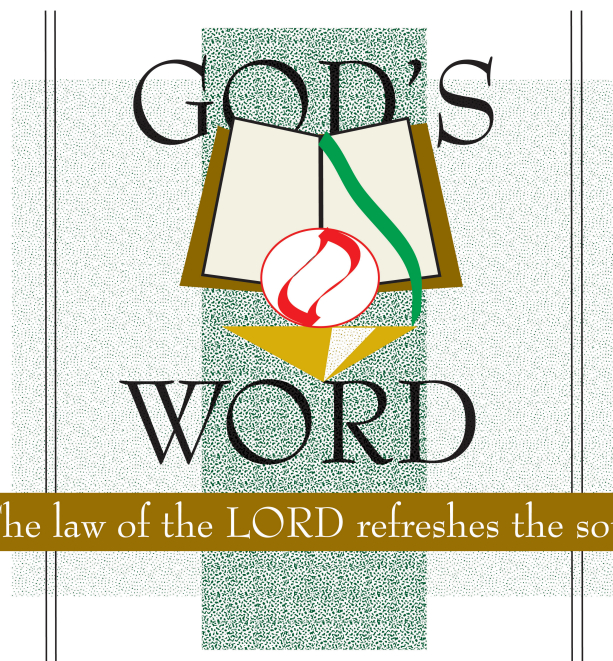
Tuesday: 11:30am-3:00pm
Wednesday: 12:30pm-3:00pm
Thursday: 11:30am-1:30pm & 4:30pm-5:30pm

Thrift Shop/Barn

Monday — Thursday: 10:00am-4:00pm
Friday: 10:00am-2:00pm
Donations accepted Monday-Thursday: 10:00am-3:00pm
and Friday: 10:00am-1:00pm. Please refer to our website for a list of items that can be donated.

Stewardship Supper

The Thursday evening dinner is served between 4:30pm and 5:30pm. All are welcome.



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Sunday, September 29, 2024
Twenty-Six Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Message from our Pastor



Dear Friends,

I have been meeting with the students and parents of our religious education program over the past couple of weeks. When I speak to the parents, I remind them of something that we are all keenly aware of – it is challenging for young people, in the face of so much ridicule and judgement from those who do not hold the same values as we do, to remain committed to their faith. That is why the Church has always emphasized the need for us to walk in discipleship together. From gathering for Mass each Sunday, to joining groups and ministries to bolster our faith, we need a community in which to be strengthened and guarded in our daily lives.

To that end, I am happy to announce that we have begun two young adult groups in our sister parishes. One is particularly aimed at our English-speaking community (21-39 years old) and the other for our Spanish-speaking parishioners (18-30 years old). The English young adult group has adopted the name “Blaise – North Shore Catholics.” *Blaise* is for St. Blaise, a bishop and martyr of the fourth century, whom we invoke as the patron saint of ailments of the throat. St. Blaise lived in a tumultuous time in the early Church where Christians were often mocked, ridiculed, and even killed for their faith. Playing on his name, young Catholics today are called to be on fire - or *ablaze* - with the fire of the Holy Spirit, even in a time when it is not always socially acceptable to profess what we believe. Since the summer, this group has been meeting regularly for times of prayer and social activities with the aim of helping young Catholics to connect with like-minded peers and form spiritual relationships that will help them navigate the formative years of their 20s and 30s.

Several weeks ago, Bishop Luis Romero, one of our auxiliary bishops and the moderator of Hispanic Ministry in our diocese, asked Fr. Sijo and me to meet with some young adults from other parishes. These young Latino men have been trained to help parishes form young adult groups aimed specifically at the recent immigrants from Central America. They come here with few, if any, family or friends and often are not conversant in English. Our desire is to help them find a home in our parish where they can network with other Catholics who take their faith seriously and thereby avoid the snares that can often overtake newcomers and lead to vices and pitfalls.

In time, we hope that these two groups will hold events together and broaden our outreach to the Port Jefferson area and beyond! So far, their meetings have been at Infant Jesus Parish, but we’ll be hosting events at St. Gerard’s as well. We welcome anyone from the surrounding parishes who would like to participate. Please be on the lookout for information about upcoming events. If you are a young adult, consider joining us. If you have kids, grandkids, or know young adults in your neighborhood, spread the word about these groups. We will have ads in our upcoming bulletins and on our website with all the details. Thank you for supporting our community, especially younger Catholics, helping them find their way while being grounded in the richness of our faith!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



ST. GERARD MAJELLA'S ALL SAINTS/HALLOWEEN PARTY AND

TRUNK OR TREAT

October 19, 2024 1pm-2:30pm
Parish Hall and Parking Lot

Admission-Canned Good or
Food Pantry donation
Rain or Shine



- Trunk or Treating in our Parking lot
- Crafts
- Cupcake Decorating
- Games
- Wrap the Mummy Contest



OCIA Program for Adults



Your Journey Into the
Catholic Church Begins Here

OCIA
Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

Open Wide the Doors to Christ!

Would you like to become a Catholic?

Would you like to receive the Sacraments of Holy Communion
or Confirmation?

Classes will begin on October 3rd at 7pm in the Parish Hall. We
meet every other Thursday night at the same time and
location.

For more information, contact Deacon Frank at 631-473-2900 or email him at
deaconfrank@stgmajella.org.

Religious Education

2024 Class Masses

Sunday, October 20	10:00	Level 8
	12:00	Level 7
Sunday, October 27	10:00	Level 2 & Sacrament Prep Class
Sunday, November 3	10:00	Level 5
	12:00	Level 6
Sunday, November 17	10:00	Level 7
	12:00	Level 2 & Sacrament Prep Class
Saturday, November 23	5:00	Level 8
Sunday, December 8	10:00	Level 7 Commitment Mass
	12:00	Level 2 & Sacrament Prep Class

Parent Meetings

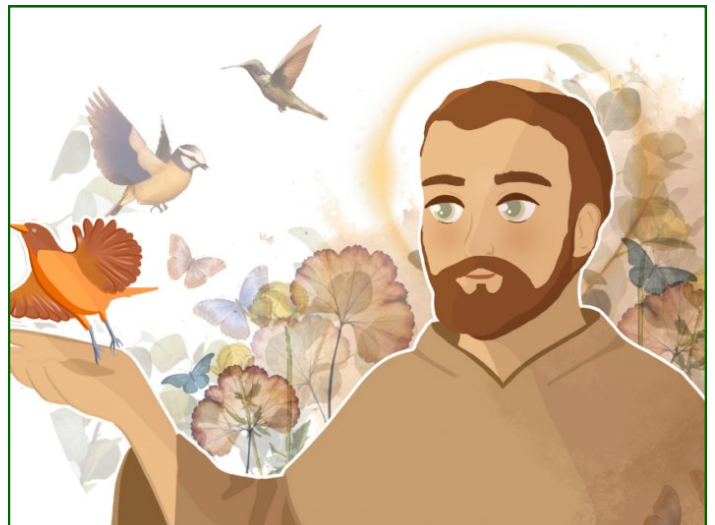
- October 28th-Level 2/Sac Prep Parent Meeting at 7pm
- November 4th-Level 7 Parents Evening of Enrollment at 7pm
- November 13th-Level 8 Parent Meeting at 7:15pm
- November 18th-Level 1 Parents Evening of Enrollment at 7pm

St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day-October 4th

Dear Lord,

I join Saint Francis in prayer: Please, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hate, let me show love; Where there is hurt, forgiveness; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is unhappiness, hope; Where there is darkness, light; And where there is sadness, joy.

Amen.



Parish Outreach Ministry

“Be diligent in serving the poor. Love the poor, honor them as you would Christ himself.”

HELP BRING JOY TO KIDS IN NEED

CHRISTMAS ADOPT-A-FAMILY



THERE ARE MANY PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO DO NOT HAVE THE MEANS TO PROVIDE CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THEIR FAMILIES. THEY RELY ON THE GENEROUS HEARTS OF OTHERS LIKE YOU! IF YOU OR YOUR BUSINESS WOULD LIKE TO ADOPT A FAMILY, CONTACT JENNIFER AT JENNIFER@STGMAJELLA.ORG / 631-473-2900.

Welcome Friends Free Curbside Meal Program

Monday: 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Christ Episcopal Church
127 Barnum Avenue, Port Jeff Village

Tuesday: 1:00 – 1:30 PM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
390 Patchogue Rd. (Rt. 112), Port Jeff Station

Wednesday: 5:00 – 6:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church
Corner of Main St. and South St., Port Jeff Village

Thursday: 4:00 – 5:30 PM

Doors Open at 4pm Sit Down Only between
4:30pm and 5:30pm

St. Gerard Majella Church

Friday: 3:30 – 5:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church
Corner of Main St. and South St., Port Jeff Village

Food Pantry Needs

Cat Food
Dog Food
Canned Tuna
Raisins
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Granola Bars
Soup
Rice
Canola Oil
Flour
Juice
Shelf Stable Milk

Helpful Phone Numbers:

Alcoholics Anonymous 24-Hour Hotline: 631-669-1124
Al-Anon Suffolk County: 631-669-2827
American Red Cross - LI: 516-747-3500
Birthright (Pregnancy Support): 631-821-9727 or 1-800-550-4900
Brighter Tomorrow (Domestic Violence): 631-395-1800
Catholic Charities (Food Stamp Info): 631-789-9546
Child Advocacy Center (CAC) (Child Abuse): 631-439-0480
Fidelis Insurance (Family Health Plus): 1-888-343-3547
Gamblers Anonymous Hotline: 1-855-222-5542
Good Shepherd Hospice: 631-376-3758
Hope House Ministries: 631-473-6030
L.I. Women's Coalition (Domestic Violence): 631-666-8833
Narcotics Anonymous: 631-689-6262
National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-SUICIDE
Response Crisis Center: 631-751-7500 (Suicide Hotline)
The Retreat (Domestic Violence Hotline): 631-329-2200
Conexión Linea de Crisis (M-F: 5-10 PM) 631-751-7423V
Victims Information Bureau (Advocacy, Counseling): 631-360-3606
Women's Services (Town of Brookhaven): 631-698-2074

Mass Intentions and Presider Schedule for the Week of September 30 – October 6

Monday, September 30 (St. Jerome)

9:00am The Intentions of Benettie Edouard

Tuesday, October 1 (St. Therese)

9:00am Bridget Greehy

Wednesday, October 2 (The Holy Guardian Angels)

9:00am Daniel O’Hara, Guy Poitras, Maureen Catania

Thursday, October 3

9:00am For All Priests

Friday, October 4 (St. Francis of Assisi)

9:00am Michael August DuBritz

Saturday, October 5 (St. Faustina)

5:00pm Michael Maglione, Teddy Petry, Anthony Bonura,
Rose Caparros, Anthony Cavaliere, Alissa & Jim Warnke

Sunday, October 6

8:00am Mary & Marty DiMartino

10:00am Alfina Nicoletti Stissi

12:00pm Jessica Ippolito



Stewardship Report

Last Week’s Collection - \$7,718.00

Prayers for the Sick

All the sick and residents of Atria, St. Joseph’s Village Woodhaven Adult Home & Nursing Home & Jefferson’s Ferry, Luke John Carusillo, Sandy Barrios, LouEllen Klints, Arline Guma, Charles Ricottone, Ted Claesen, Connie Biscardi, Ronnie Pryor, Vinnie Surwilo, Barbara Klein-Croner, Barbara & Pat Consorte, Erin Whitehead, Jack Grob, Brenda Fort, Robert Mutschler, Barbara Riley, Kathy Dailey, Genevieve Eannuzzi, Alexa Mastando, Debbie Esposito Arpino, Leonardo Alfuentes, Bonnie Forbes, Jeanette Prossi, Cody Family, Philip Spucci, Debra Hamera, Dennis Myles, Baby Camden Miller, Nilda Menendez, Drew Flynn, Baby Julianni, Samantha Brandt, Katie Ankner, Joan Francavilla, Anthony Paletto, Jaclyn Lin, Michael Fucito, Nancy Mulvihill, Angel Rivera, Roger Russell, Paul Csorba, Judith Montesuco, Joe DiPrima, Barbara Lambert, John MacKinnon, Tony Loiacone, Mario Cappilieri, Santino, Vincent Ricottone, Dale Beck, Marie Bilbao, Patricia Murray, Ericka Medrano, Leonardo Alfuentes, Donald Derham, Joanne Dorvil, Laurie Garrigan, Gregory Litterello, Kristine McDonald.

Weekly Memorials

Our Sanctuary Candle has been lovingly donated in memory of:

Anthony Tallarico



Wedding Banns

Our parish is pleased to announce the following wedding:

Patrick Morgan and Ariel O’Shea

(St. William) (St. Matthew’s)

October 19, 2024 First Banns



We pray for all recently deceased, remembering Peter Logiudice, may they find eternal rest and joy.

Please stop by our Prayer Corner near Reception to borrow books and CDs on many Catholic topics to deepen your faith formation and spiritual life.



Knights of Columbus

**YOU ARE BORN A MAN
YOU BECOME A KNIGHT!**

Scan with phone camera!

YOU ARE CALLED! JOIN TODAY!

Free 12 Month Membership

Visit
KofC.org/JoinUs

Use Promo Code
BlessedMcGivney

To learn more please call Peter Santoro 631-457-9973

Columbiettes

We are an organization of women from all backgrounds united by our Catholic Faith, the love of family, our country, and our commitment to helping others. If you would like to join, please contact Jennifer at 631-473-2900.

Our Parish Mission Statement: Formed by God’s word and nourished at the Eucharist, we strive to be faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ by handing on the Catholic faith to our families and community and serving those in need.

OCIA Christian Initiation of Adults

Are you an adult thinking of becoming part of the Catholic community and completing your sacraments? Contact Deacon Frank at deaconfrank@stgmajella.org or 631-473-2900.

Facebook.com/stgmajella/

Instagram.com/sgmparish

Facebook.com/SGMthriftshop/

Instagram.com/sgmthriftshop

[YouTube Channel-St. Gerard Majella Parish](https://YouTube.com/St.GerardMajellaParish)

**WE INVITE YOU TO REGISTER YOUR FAMILY
WITH OUR PARISH**

Are you new to our parish? Have you been participating in our parish but never registered? Do you need to update your contact information or add a family member?

Both registration or family update forms are available in our church office 631-473-2900 or on our website: www.stgmajella.org



Breaking Open the Word

Reflecting on next Sunday's Gospel before you come to Mass can bring so much more meaning to your experience of the Liturgy. Here's the Gospel for next Sunday. How does this Gospel touch your life?

October 6, 2024

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mk 10:2-16

The Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, "Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?" They were testing him. He said to them in reply, "What did Moses command you?" They replied, "Moses permitted a husband to write a bill of divorce and dismiss her." But Jesus told them, "Because of the hardness of your hearts he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, *God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.* So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate." In the house the disciples again questioned Jesus about this. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

Reflection Questions

- What does Jesus say about the marriage relationship in today's Gospel?
- The disciples question Jesus further about this teaching. Why do you think they ask Jesus about this again?
- What scene is described at the end of today's Gospel?
- It seems like these two scenes are unrelated, but hearing them together teaches us something very important. God wants to help us honor our commitments to one another. To do this, we must be like children before God, trusting him completely and depending upon his help. The Church teaches us that the Sacrament of Marriage strengthens our commitment and gives married couples the gift of the Holy Spirit to help them honor their promises to one another.
- Pray this week that God will help us honor our commitments to other people. Pray that God will strengthen the commitment of married couples and help them honor and respect one another.



Respect Life Sunday

Sunday, October 6 is Respect Life Sunday, a day dedicated to reflecting on the sanctity and dignity of all human life. On this day, we are reminded that threats to life and human dignity take many forms in our world. The Diocese works tirelessly to strengthen our commitment to promoting a culture of life through advocacy, education, and parish outreach. Your generosity in the Respect Life envelope collection will support this essential mission. We deeply appreciate your prayers and support.



PLEASE JOIN US AS WE UNITE WITH GROUPS ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO PRAY THE ROSARY FOR AMERICA. SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2024 AT 4 PM BY THE SACRED HEART STATUE AT INFANT JESUS CHURCH

Blessing of the Animals

Bring your pets, big or small, on **Saturday, Oct. 5th at 12:30pm** on the Great Lawn for a special blessing. Our beloved mascot Leo will be there to greet his fellow 4-legged parishioners! "So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And **God saw that it was good.**" (Gen 1:21)



3rd Annual America Needs Fatima ROSARY RALLY

Saturday, October 19, 2024
Heritage Park,
Mt. Sinai @ 12:00 pm
(weather permitting)

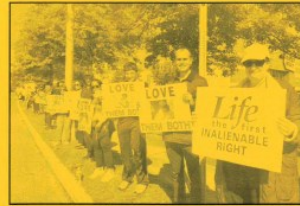
(Please bring your rosary and a chair.)
Text or call Kathy with any questions:
(516) 316-0338

Finally, My Immaculate Heart will triumph!

Our Lady of Fatima, July 13, 1917



L. I. COALITION FOR LIFE PRESENTS:



Annual Stand Up For Life

Sunday, October 6, 2024
2:00-3:30 PM
(rain or shine)
At two locations:
Along Route 110 and Route 25
Huntington, LI

and
SUFL, East - LIE, Exit 70S, Cty. Rd. 111
Manorville, LI

Signs will be distributed at both locations.

Supporters include:

Our Lady of Grace RC Church	St. Phil Neri Respect for Life	Mother Cabrini Council #7278
Virginia H. Rickett & Family	St. Gerard Mariella K of C 7006	Padraic Pearse Nugent
Catholic Daughters Court St. Gerard	Father Slomski Council #7423 WHB	St. Catherine of Siena - Franklin Sq.
In Loving Memory of Jerry Higgins	Giglio Family	Sts. Philip and James Respect Life
Nassau Knights for Life, Inc.	In Memoriam Father Pat Fitzgerald	OLPH Knights of Columbus #794
St. Martin of Tours Parish, Bethpage	In Memory of John and Marie Mawn	The Johnson Family
The Taffner Family	Holy Spirit Respect Life Committee	St. Patrick's Church, Glen Cove
In Loving Memory of Neil F. Sullivan	Maffoni Family	Ancient Order Hibernians Hicksville
George & Susanne Brumm	The Tomlinson Family	AOH Div. 7 Our Lady of Knock
St. James Parish Setauket	Three Village Citizens for Life	LAOH Div. 5 Suffolk County, NY
St. Boniface Martyr Church, SC	Mother Teresa K of C Council 12006	LAOH Division 8 Glen Cove
O.L.L. Malverne HLC	Light Works Electric, Inc.	Ancient Order Hibernians Elmont-NHP
Saint Martin of Tours, Amityville	Cassillo Salvadori Roberts Family	Ancient Order Hibernians Massapequa
The Albanese Family	Kellenberg Assembly 4 th Degree 0728	Ancient Order Hibernians Nassau AOH
St. Patrick Church, Smithtown	Pro-Life Parlor	Ancient Order Hibernians Smithtown
Robert Grant	Sam & Ann Marie Cesare Doylestown, PA	Ancient Order Hibernians Suffolk NY
Janis A. Parazzelli, Esq.	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton K of C #17159	Ancient Order Hibernians Port Wash.
St. Raymond's Human Life Committee	Commander John J. Shea Assembly 729	Ancient Order Hibernians Five Towns
Our Lady of Lourdes Mass. Pk. RLC	Our Lady of Victory Right to Life	Ancient Order Hibernians Glen Cove
OLPH Respect Life	The Bertran Family	Ancient Order Hibernians Long Beach
St. Anthony of Padua, East Northport	St. Sylvester K of C Council 6844	Ancient Order Hibernians Lynbrook-RVC
Zurell Family	St. Sylvester Columbettes	AOH Nassau Division 14 (Men)
Life Center of Long Island	SUFFOLK CHAPTER K OF C	Ancient Order of Hibernians Wantagh
Catholic Daughters Ct. Morning Star	St. Regis Council 4651 K of C	
In Memory of Tom & Theresa Kelsch	St. Francis of Assisi Respect Life	
In Memory of Christine Hodyno	Holy Family Hicksville Respect Life	
St. Pius X Council K of C	O'Rourke Family in Memory of Michael	
St. Anthony Church, Rocky Point	Bible Partners	
Alice, George & Peter Beriolotti, RIP	Carol & Brian Clancy Kings Park NY	

**Pray for Our
Country!**

Sponsored by: L.I. Coalition for Life, Inc. • P.O. Box 223, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779
• PO Box 247, Old Bethpage, NY 11804 www.ProLife.LI.org
For further information call 631-243-1435

*Can't Make It Here During The Week?
Mark Your Calendars!*

**Saturdays at
The Thrift Shop & Barn
@ St. Gerard Majella Church!**

In addition to our normal operating hours
Monday-Thursday 10-4 & Friday 10-2

**We Will Be Open 10-2 on:
October 5
November 2
December 7**

See You There!

Thank You for Your Continued Support of the
Charitable Works of St. Gerard Majella Church

Last chance to get your ticket for a chance to win \$3,000!! We would love if you came to our fun event too! You can mingle and meet your fellow parishioners!! Win-Win!!

FALL INTO FUN



Parish Fundraiser



FRIDAY OCT. 4TH 7-10PM
PARISH HALL

- MUSIC/DJ RICH-RAFFLES-50/50-GAMES
- APPS/SOFT DRINKS
- CIGAR BAR WEATHER PERMITTING(BYOC)
- BRING WINE TO SHARE
- \$50 A TICKET GUARANTEES A SPOT IN OUR BACKWARDS RAFFLE DRAWING.
- CASH PRIZES-TOP PRIZE \$3,000.
- NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.
- ONLY 300 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD.
- THE FIRST 240 TICKETHOLDERS, 21 AND OVER, TO RSVP WILL GAIN ENTRY TO THE EVENT.
- TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED VIA CASH/CHECK AFTER WEEKEND MASSES OR IN OUR PARISH OFFICE.



Mobile Outreach Bus

Free Health Screenings and Flu Vaccinations

The Community Outreach team is pleased to offer free health screenings and flu vaccinations in your community by a Catholic Health registered nurse.



St. Gerard Majella
300 Terryville Road
Port Jefferson Station

Tuesday, October 8th
9A-2P

Services for adults (18 and older):

- Brief cardiac history
- Blood pressure screening
- BMI screening
- Simple blood test for cholesterol and glucose
- Health education
- Referrals as needed
- Resources for those without insurance
- Free flu vaccination (senior dose available)



November 9, 2024
Meal Packaging Event
1pm to 3pm



We Packed 10,152 Meals in 2023 and We Are Doing It Again!
Let's Join Together and Rise Up Against Hunger

Rise Against Hunger works in countries worldwide to fight hunger, targeting communities facing high rates of food insecurity. They provide volunteer-packaged meals and assistance, often through school feeding programs, to support nutrition, education and health for children and families facing hunger right now.

St. Paul's is hosting a meal packaging event on Saturday, November 9th in Remsen Hall. We are asking volunteers for two hours to help pack meals for those less fortunate. There is a Set Up slot from 11:30am to 1pm, Packing is from 1pm to 3pm and Clean Up starts at 3pm. We need to cap the total number of volunteers at 80 due to limited space.

→ Visit Our Website - www.stpaulslcpjs.org
Click on the web links for more information
or to REGISTER and/or DONATE

Contact: Deacon Johnny
Email: johnnysladehawaii@gmail.com
Call/Text: 516.423.6844
Website: Riseagainsthunger.org

*Sign Up Sheet is
on the
Breezeway Table*

Thank you from Deacon Johnny Slade



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

September 23, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At this year's general election, New York voters will decide whether to approve a proposed amendment to the State Constitution. Officially known as "Proposal One", the amendment would add new language to the State's version of the "Bill of Rights" that, if approved, could insert gender ideology into child and adult sports, schools, hospitals, and even our churches.

The proponents of Proposal One refer to it as the "Equal Rights Amendment" and claim that the amendment is intended to protect the right to access an abortion. Proposal One, however, does nothing to ensure "equal rights" nor does it have anything to do with the legality of abortion in New York.

Since 1938, the State Constitution has guaranteed the right to the equal protection of the laws and has barred discrimination against any individual by a public or private institution based upon "race, color, creed or religion." Now, eighty-five years after the adoption of the Constitution's prohibition on discrimination, the State Legislature has discovered that we need an "Equal Rights Amendment" that ensures a "right" to an abortion in New York.

New York's abortion laws are already among the most permissive in the nation. Proposal One does nothing to alter the abortion laws or to further liberalize them. In fact, the word "abortion" does not appear anywhere in the proposed amendment. New Yorkers who vote in favor of Proposal One because they believe it will provide additional legal guarantees related to abortion are victims of a misleading campaign that masks the true purpose of the amendment.

Voters need only to read the language set forth in Proposal One to learn its actual purpose and to discern its potential for harm. While they will find no mention of abortion, voters will discover that, if adopted, Proposal One would prohibit discrimination based upon "gender identity" or "gender expression." This language would transform the laudable and longstanding anti-discrimination article in the State Constitution into a legal weapon that would force institutions across the state—public and private, religious, and secular—to accommodate the most radical forms of gender ideology.

Under this language, for example, a CYO girls' basketball team, or a local girls' soccer club, could be forced to allow a biological male to participate on the team if he wishes to do so because of his "gender expression." To bar such a person from the team would constitute an act of illegal discrimination.

The same language can be employed against health clubs, public and private schools, restaurants, and other public places to mandate that these institutions open their bathrooms and locker rooms to anyone, regardless of biological sex, based upon an individual's "gender identity." To restrict access to a bathroom or locker room according to biological sex would be another form of unconstitutional discrimination.

Furthermore, Proposal One would undermine the bedrock religious liberty protections that the State Constitution is supposed provide for Catholic parishes, schools, and hospitals, as well as for the religious institutions administered by other faiths. The amendment would expose a church or school to a lawsuit if, for example, it refused to hire a "transgender" catechist or dismissed an employee for the promotion of notions about gender that are antithetical to Church teaching. A teacher could demand to be called by a "preferred pronoun", as could any student, regardless of age. A refusal to adopt this sort of language regime would violate the Constitution.

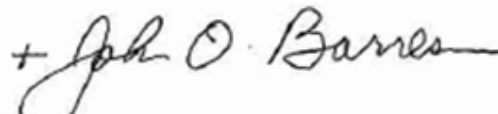
Catholic hospitals that do not perform gender-related surgeries could be sued for illegal discrimination against people who wish to express their gender identity through a medical procedure.

Supporters of Proposal One dismiss these concerns as far-fetched fearmongering. Yet they cannot offer any other plausible application of the language in the amendment. Unlike proposals in other states that were designed to limit the power of a state legislature to regulate access to abortion, Proposal One never mentions abortion, nor does it expressly restrict the power of the State Legislature to pass laws related to abortion. Instead, the amendment adds a "word salad" of terms to the State Constitution that would turn the shield of anti-discrimination protection into a sword that can be used to pierce religious and secular institutions in order to impose, by force of law, a gender ideology that voters have never endorsed.

New York's Constitution has, for nearly a century, expressly prohibited discriminatory practices. Proposal One does nothing to enhance the universally accepted principle of equality before the law. Proposal One is, instead, a deceptive effort to impose an ideological agenda upon the State disguised by popular and inoffensive rhetoric about "equal rights" and by appealing to voters who believe the state's abortion laws are at risk of change. But, to paraphrase the Gospel, by its language you shall know it. The words of Proposal One reveal its true intent and the effects it would have if adopted.

New Yorkers who do not wish to see the State Constitution used to implement a harmful gender ideology that would reach into nearly every facet of ever day life, from sports to schools, from bathrooms to gyms to hospitals—even into churches, synagogues and mosques—must vote "NO" on Proposal One.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John O. Barres". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre



Sunday Gospel Activities



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