THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 12/11/16

Rev. Adrian McHugh, Pastor
Rev. Charles Omotu
Rev. Kevin Gruber
Deacon Bernard F. Sherlock

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Regional School
Principal, Ms. Leeann Graziose  516-785-5709
St. Barnabas Christian Formation
Mrs. Marjorie Lampert  516-785-0130

Social Ministry  Mrs. Alice Witt  516-785-6243
Music Ministry  Mr. William R. Dione
Youth Ministry  Mrs. Margaret Harnisch
Business & Personnel  Mr. John G. Nappi

www.stbarnabasny.org  Find us on Facebook

RECTORY OFFICE
2320 Bedford Avenue, Bellmore, NY 11710
516-785-0054   Fax: 516-221-7789

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM;
Friday: 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM;
(Closed Weekdays: 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM)
Saturday & Sunday: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Emergency Only: 516-280-0359

MASS TIMES
Monday to Friday: 6:30 and 9 AM
Saturday: 8:00 AM Vigil: 4:30 & 7:00 PM
Sunday: 7, 9, 10:15, 10:30 AM, 12 & 5 PM
Confessions Saturday 12:30 PM

Contact the Rectory for information on the Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony & Anointing.
St. Barnabas the Apostle

Third Week of Advent

Monday, December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
6:30 AM  Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Guadalupe
9:00 AM  Vera Carlson & John & Bridie Cronin
Gloria LaBau
Mark Anthony Ricciardl
Intentions of Meghan Alice Roach
Intentions of Frank DeVito

Tuesday, December 13 St. Lucy
6:30 AM  Irene Carey
9:00 AM  Ersilia & Joseph Reich

Wednesday, December 14 St John of the Cross
6:30 AM  Noelle Lepoidevin
9:00 AM  Brian Dione

Thursday, December 15
6:30 AM  Joseph Bonamarte
9:00 AM  Clorinda Facinelli

Friday, December 16
6:30 AM  Charlie & Ann Klika
9:00 AM  Giuseppe & Donata D’Andrea

Saturday, December 17
8:00 AM  Reverend Theodore King
   First Pastor of St. Barnabas
Fr. Charles 4:30 PM  Mary Agostinacchio
   Bryan & Eileen Carney &
   John Doherty
   John V. Luksch
   Steve Tarpinian
   Anastasia Martin
   Joseph Grignano
Fr. Kevin 7:00 PM  Lillian J. Rocco

Sunday, December 18  Fourth Sunday of Advent
Fr. Charles 7:00 AM  Patricia Fenton
Fr. Adrian 9:00 AM  Third & Fourth Grade Mass
   For the People of Our Parish
Fr. Charles 10:15 AM  Margaret Quinn & Joseph N. Piller
Fr. Kevin 10:30 AM  Stephen Andrew Clifford
Fr. Adrian 12:00 PM  Luigi & Maria Balestrieri
Fr. Kevin 5:00 PM  Donato Grazia & Nicola Lamberti

We pray for our deceased
Bridget Carey
Letty Evans
Agnes Hornaceck
Dominick Carillo

Reconciliation
Confessions available every Saturday at 12:30PM.
Evening confessions are available at 7:00 PM on Wednesday December 14th and Thursday December 15th.

First Communion Dates
Saturday, May 6th
   @ 2:00 PM
Saturday, May 13th
   @ 11:30 AM & 2:00 PM
Saturday, May 20th
   @ 11:30 AM & 2:00 PM
First Communion for Children attending Catholic Schools is on Saturday, May 6th @11:30 AM

Confirmation Date
Monday, May 22nd
   @ 10:00 AM & 2:00 PM.

Advent Candles
The Advent Candle for the second week of Advent will be lit in memory of Louis Scheibeler.

Bread & Wine
The Eucharistic Bread & Wine will be offered this week in memory of Irene & Joseph Carey from their loving family

Christmas Candles
The red candles on the sanctuary at Christmas may be memorialized. The offering of $50 may be made at the rectory.
St. Barnabas
CHURCH DOOR
BOOKS

CDs ALSO AVAILABLE
What’s Pastor Thinking?

What are you expecting this Christmas? The perfect family gathering with no tension and everyone able to be present? The perfect Christmas gift? A refreshing, stress-free holiday? What are you expecting this Christmas? Do you think your expectations will all be met?

Or, thinking beyond Christmas, what do you expect out of life? Good health and length of days? Safety and security? A better job, or any job? A good family, filled with love for one another and pride in each other? Satisfaction and purpose in living? Do you think that’s what life will send you, without exception?

And what do you expect from God? That’s a big question, isn’t it! We’d surely like God to bless us, wouldn’t we? To keep us happy and healthy? To keep our families and friends safe? To make the world a peaceful place, putting an end to tension in our families and violence in our communities and war in our world?

And, while we’re at it, wouldn’t we like God to root out injustice and end hunger? To bring judgment to those who deserve it, and, if we’re honest about it, doesn’t that mean those we don’t like? And wouldn’t we like it if God did all that with as little inconvenience as possible for us?

That sounds a lot like the expectations of John the Baptizer. Last week, we heard him thundering and roaring in the desert: ‘Repent! Turn around! Be baptized for the forgiveness of sins! Messiah is coming, and when he comes, there’s going to be fire! There’s going to be judgment! So clean up your act and get ready!’

And this week, we meet John again. He’s in prison. He’s been arrested for telling the truth to King Herod about Herod’s own sins. The powerful don’t always like to hear the truth, you know.

Meanwhile, Jesus has been creating quite a stir, curing the sick, casting out demons, giving sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf, making the lame walk, calming the sea, and even raising the dead. Jesus has been eating with sinners and tax-collectors, announcing God’s favor for the poor, forgiving sins and teaching the truths of God.

John’s disciples bring reports about all of this to John and it makes John wonder. Back when he had baptized Jesus, he had thought Jesus was the Messiah. But now he wasn’t so sure. Jesus wasn’t living up to his expectations. Where was the fire? Where was the judgment? John was expecting a Messiah who came with thunder and the fire of judgment. Instead, Jesus came and demonstrated mercy and forgiveness and a willingness to suffer for the sake of God’s kingdom. What kind of Messiah was that?

Well, it was the Messiah God intended. Jesus came and did the works of God. In Jesus, God has come to be with the people. He has come in surprising ways, giving life and showing mercy, rather than judging and destroying like a conquering King. God has come to be with the people!

Do you believe that? Do you believe God is at work, not to give us what we want and expect, but to give us what we really and truly need? That may not be what the world expects from God. But it’s what the world needs. It’s what we need. And God gives it, abundantly, in Christ
Financial Reports

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Parish Families Registered: 5,029
Envelopes Mailed: 1,284 Used: 645
Envelopes Used 12/6/15: 660

2016 Catholic Ministries Appeal
Goal: $107,900 Donors: 553
Pledged: $121,777 Received: $118,517

Second Collection This Week
Religious Retirement Collection

Second Collection Next Week
The Church Bell System
Our system is currently being refurbished which includes installing new hardware and replacing the clappers.

The Week at a Glance

Sunday:
3:00 PM The Story of the First Christmas, Children’s Christmas Pageant, Church
7:30 PM Al-Anon, School Cafeteria

Monday:
7:30 PM Charismatic Prayer Group, HFC

Tuesday:
7:00 PM Parents Night for Religious Ed. Parents, Holy Family Chapel
7:00 PM Family Music, Church
7:30 PM Right to Life Group, Rectory Meeting Room

Wednesday:
7:00 PM Advent Reconciliation Service, Church
7:00 PM Chosen, HFC
7:00 PM Rosary Making Group, School
7:30 PM Al-Anon, Rectory
7:30 PM RCIA, Convent
8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal, Church

Thursday:
1:30 PM Contemplative Prayer, Convent Meeting Room
7:00 PM Advent Reconciliation Service, Church

NO CHOSEN THIS EVENING
7:00 PM Bible Study, Rectory
7:30 PM Contemplative Prayer, Convent Meeting Room
8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal, Church

Friday:
1:30 PM Lectio Divina, Convent Meeting Room
7:30 PM Lectio Divina, Convent Meeting Room

Saturday:
8:30 AM Men's Prayer Group, HFC
12:30 PM Confessions, Church

We Pray for the Sick

Thank you to the children and staff of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Regional School for an inspiring Service of Lessons & Carols.

*Wednesday December 6th*
In some traditions a blessed wafer is shared among family members at the beginning of the meal at Christmas to recall the real “Bread of Life” who came among us over 2,000 years ago. The blessed wafers are available at the rectory. Your free will offering will be donated to Parish Outreach.

**Christmas Wafers**

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

**Saturday, December 24th, Christmas Eve**
4:00 PM, 6:00 PM, 10:00 PM & Midnight

*The 4:00 PM Mass will be celebrated in both the Church and the Holy Family Chapel.*

**Sunday, December 25th, Christmas Day**
7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM & 12 Noon

*Join the children today as they present:*  
**The Story of the First Christmas**

*Directed by Lyn Politi*  

**Sunday, December 11th**

3:00 PM  St. Barnabas Church  

*Come celebrate the True Meaning of Christmas through the eyes, hearts and voices of the Children.*

*Remember your loved ones by having Poinsettias placed on the sanctuary this Christmas.*

*The offering is $15*
St. Barnabas Parents Night
For Parents of Children Attending Religious Education & Catholic School

Tuesday, December 13th and January 10th
7 to 8PM Holy Family Chapel

God is the Answer
Finding Peace, Mercy and Salvation in Christ and His Church
Presenter: Nolan Reynolds of the Campus Ministry at Holy Trinity Diocesan High School
Call 785-0130 to confirm

Children 3 and up are invited to join us on Christmas Eve for the 4:00 PM Mass in the Church dressed as shepherds and angels. Arrive by 3:40 PM and gather downstairs in the Holy Family Chapel to line up. We will walk in the entrance procession to the altar then return to be seated with parents. St. Barnabas has many costumes that children can borrow for this Mass. Costumes can be returned to the Rectory the week after Christmas. A picture of a star will be given to parents to put on the pew next to them to reserve a seat for their child.

Christmas Eve 4:00 PM Mass
St. Barnabas Church
Thank You Angels
Thank you for your generous support of the St. Barnabas Angel Tag program. Please be sure to return your unwrapped gift to the rectory this week. If you didn’t have the opportunity to pick up an Angel Tag and would like to participate, gift cards to major retailers and grocery stores are always appreciated.

Thank You from Social Ministry
A big heartfelt thank you to all the generous parishioners who donated turkeys, food, cash, checks and food cards to over 65 needy families this Thanksgiving. Because of your generosity the Thanksgiving baskets included a wide variety of food, from breakfast to dinner, and many extras. A very special thank you to the social ministry volunteers who worked so hard putting it all together. We are also most grateful to:
- The Key Clubs of Kennedy and Mepham High Schools
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Regional School
- Our Religious Education Program
- The Bellmore School District
- Local scout troops
- Our St. Vincent de Paul Society
With the abundance of contributions we were able to provide a happy Thanksgiving to our neighbors. With sincere thanks and blessings. ~ Alice Witt

St. Vincent de Paul Society
In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells us that the good news can be seen, touched, felt and heard through the lives of God’s people. We are now charged to take up the ministry of Jesus, but we can’t just ask people to take our word for it; our actions must speak for us. Since Christmas is a time of love and gift giving, please share in Jesus’ ministry by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who are poor can know the good news of Jesus Christ. Checks may be made out to SVDP - St. Barnabas Conference. Thank you.

Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound
Please pick up your poinsettias for your home visits at the rectory December 15th &16th between the hours of 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM and the 17th from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Please keep in mind that the rectory is closed for lunch from 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM.

Eucharistic Minister & Lectors
The sign up sheets for the Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Masses is available in the sacristy.

Keep Christ in Christmas
The Bellmore Council of the Knights of Columbus will be outside the Church this Sunday selling wreaths and ‘Keep Christ in Christmas’ lawn signs and car magnets.

Family Liturgy
Each week during Advent, at the 10:15 AM Mass, children place ornaments on the Jesse Tree and families gather to light the chapel Advent Wreath. This past week we enjoyed Hospitality Sunday which is held on the first Sunday of every month immediately following the 10:15 Family Mass. If you are interested in volunteering to be on our bakers list, email Margic@optonline.net to sign up.

There are many other ways to get involved in the Family Mass. Children of all ages are invited to participate in the entrance and offertory processions. Children ages 9 and up are able to serve as junior lectors and children 14 and up can serve as lead lectors during Mass. The Family Music Ministry always welcomes new members. So why not come and see how you can get involved and be a part of our St. Barnabas family!

St. Barnabas Men’s Group
Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the light.” St. Barnabas, our parish patron saint wrote that we should follow the ‘way of light,’ based on the example of Jesus Christ. The Men of the Way of Light”, is the men’s prayer group of St. Barnabas parish. We meet every third Saturday in the Holy Family Chapel immediately after the 8:00 AM Mass.

Our next meeting is Saturday, December 17th. Please join us for Christian fellowship and spiritual renewal, (and a bagel breakfast). If you can’t attend, please pray for our group that God may heal our brokenness and that we may become men of virtue.

For more information contact Fred Kreuder at 987-5350 or e-mail stbampg@aol.com. Visit our facebook page: “The Way of Light - The St. Barnabas the Apostle Men’s Prayer Group”.
Rosary Making Group
The Rosary Making Group welcomes new members. We meet every Wednesday, from 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM in the school cafeteria. Please call Melissa at 221-9821 if you are interested in joining.

Respect Life
Something to think about - “I wish to restate as firmly as I can that abortion is a grave sin, since it puts an end to innocent life. In the same way, however, I can and must state that there is no sin that God’s mercy cannot reach and wipe away when it finds a repentant heart seeking to be reconciled with the Father.” Pope Francis, “Mercy and Misery”, Apostolic Letter, November 20, 2016.

March for Life Mission Statement - “The mission of the March for Life is to provide all Americans with a place to testify to the beauty of life and the dignity of each human person.” Please consider joining us on our bus trip to Washington, DC on Friday, January 27th to participate in this powerful, life-changing event. For details contact Vin Murray at 781-7846.

Spiritual Prayer Gift to the Infant Jesus

Please consider giving a birthday prayer gift to Jesus for Christmas, offering up your prayers for your intentions and for Respect for Life. Happy Birthday Jesus.

Infertility & Miscarriage
The Gianna Center for Women’s Health & Fertility at Good Samaritan Hospital provides general gynecological care, Fertility Care education, and infertility services - all with a deep commitment to honoring a woman’s dignity and the sanctity of human life. Comprehensive gynecologic primary care and specialized fertility and family planning techniques are used to unmask the causes of infertility for all women, regardless of faith. We are pleased to be the first medical practice in the community to feature two new women’s health services: Fertility Care Services and NaPro Technology. These two unique services allow us to provide you with a natural, restorative, scientifically based approach to monitoring your health and managing your fertility. Call today (631)376-3232.

St. Barnabas Choir
The St. Barnabas Choir is seeking new members. Altos especially needed, but all voices are welcome. No audition required, just the desire to share your talents with our congregation.

Rehearsals are Wednesday nights at 8:00 PM in the Church, and we sing at the 10:30 AM Sunday Masses in addition to some special events during the year. Call the rectory and ask for Bill Dione.

Jesus Loves Me Medal
First grade Daisies may earn the Jesus Loves Me Award, introducing them to the connection between scouting and their spiritual lives. Girls work with their families over a period of two to four months and receive their medals at Mass on Girl Scout Sunday. To register please contact Joan Monastero at monasteroj@verizon.net. Or call 783-8567.

Marian Healing Ministry
Continuing the Marian Healing Ministry of Fr. Dennis Kelleher CSSR there will be a Healing Mass at St. Anastasia’s Church, 45-14 245th St., Douglaston-Little Neck, NY 11362 on Tuesday, December 13th at 7:00 PM. The celebrant is Fr.
**Day of Prayer and Solidarity**

A Day of Prayer with a focus on the plight of refugees and migrants will take place across the United States on December 12, 2016, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It will be a time to place before God the hopes, fears, and needs of all those families who have come to the U.S. seeking a better life. “As Christmas approaches and especially on this feast of Our Lady, we are reminded of how our savior Jesus Christ was not born in the comfort of his own home, but rather in an unfamiliar manger,” said Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, archbishop of Galveston-Houston and president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. “To all those families separated and far from home in uncertain times, we join with you in a prayer for comfort and joy this Advent season,” Cardinal DiNardo added. “So many families are wondering how changes to immigration policy might impact them,” said Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, vice-president of the USCCB. “We want them to know the Church is with them, offers prayers on their behalf, and is actively monitoring developments at the diocesan, state, and national levels to be an effective advocate on their behalf.”

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**Cold & Flu at Mass**

The Obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and other Holy Days of Obligation is the ordinary expectation for Roman Catholics (Canon 1247). However, extraordinary circumstances such as sickness or severe weather excuse the faithful from this obligation. If you suspect you have the flu or are suffering from a serious cold, please stay at home and do not risk spreading infection to others.

**HOLDING HANDS DURING THE LORD’S PRAYER:** Although holding hands is a beautiful expression of people united in prayer, the gesture is not envisioned in any Church documents governing liturgy. It is very fitting to pray the “Our Father” with your palms lifted upward, or with your hands placed together in prayer.

**THE SIGN OF PEACE:** Please don’t be offended if someone chooses not to shake hands with you during the Sign of Peace. An appropriate gesture for those who are concerned about spreading the flu virus might be to strive for eye contact rather than physical contact. You could clasp your hands together and bow gently to those around you, and with a smile say “Peace be with you.”

**RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION:** If you are feeling sick, please receive Holy Communion in the hand, rather on the tongue and refrain from receiving communion from the cup.
The Nativity Scene in front of the Rectory was donated by a generous family from our parish who wish to remain anonymous. May it inspire all those who pass this way.

Fr. Bob Holz, Pastor of St. Raphael’s was the presider at the recent SEAS School Mass.

Blessing of a Nativity Scene

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to Him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

“We pray, above all, for peace throughout the world.”
Thank you to our Musical Director Mr. Bill Dione, the members of the St. Barnabas Choir and our Lectors for this year’s Lessons & Carols.
US Army:

National Guard:

US Navy:

US Marines:

US Air Force:
Capt. McLean G. Bethea, Nicholas P. Wright, Rev. Major Timothy Hirten.

US Merchant Marine:
Lt. J.G. Eric Stumpel.

US Coast Guard:

US Peace Corps:
Patrick Coons

We are still in need of Substitutes and Hall Monitors to assist with the Religious Education program. Please call the office to get more information.

Tuesday, December 13th – Parent Meeting – 7:00 PM Holy Family Chapel

Please remember to check the Religious Education website regularly to keep up to date on what’s happening in Religious Education.

Parent & Child Program

For children ages 2-3 years old. Our Time is a class where a child with a parent can become familiar with the classroom environment while singing songs, doing crafts, reading books, and celebrating God’s love together.

- Class sessions are offered on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM from September through June at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Regional School.
- Our Time is an affordable way to introduce your child to the classroom environment without the worry of being separated.
- It allows for the child to be comforted with a parent’s presence and prepare for entering Pre-K.
- Our Time is taught by Mrs. Sabina Lamb. Mrs. Lamb is also the leader of the Family Liturgy Music Ministry. Contact Sabina Lamb 781-9834

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Regional School
2341 Washington Ave, Bellmore, NY 11710
www.steas.com Call us at 785-5709
Each of the sacraments has a physical or tangible component, but unlike other signs and symbols we encounter in life, that which is signified by the sacraments actually occurs (see CCC 774). For example, in Baptism, the water signifies the “washing away” of Original Sin and of being born into God’s family. The person goes into the water to show that he or she is “dying” with Christ and rises from the water as a sign of “rising to new life.” In Baptism (as in all the sacraments), the physical sign also confers the grace of spiritual realities. God encounters us through the sacraments.

**Conversation After Class**
- What is a sacrament, and how many can you name? (A sacrament is an efficacious sign of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church [CCC 1131]. The seven sacraments are: Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation, Holy Orders, Matrimony, and the Anointing of the Sick.)
- What memories do you have from your first Confession and first Holy Communion?
- How do sacraments help us become stronger in living out our faith?

**What is my role as a parent in Confirmation?**
Your role is indispensable. As parents you are your child’s “primary educators in the faith.” This role began at your child’s Baptism, and it continues throughout his or her adolescence and young adult life. The Catechism calls the family “the domestic Church” (CCC 1658) because it is primarily within the family that your child will learn how to live the teachings of Jesus, which lead to eternal life.

The two most important ways you can help form your child in the Faith are to practice your faith and to pray. Regardless of your faith practice up to this point, God is calling you now to a deeper relationship with him and the Church. It has been said that the Church is not a museum of saints, but a hospital for sinners. So do not be afraid if you do not feel up to the task to leading your child closer to Christ. If necessary, renew your commitment to participate more fully in the life of the Church, through attending Mass every Sunday, going to Confession, engaging in some form of service, and praying consistently for an increase of God’s grace in your life and the life of your family.

The two important things you can do to help your son or daughter prepare for the sacrament are:
1. Be personally committed to prayer.
2. Impress upon your child, by word and example, the importance of participating in the sacramental life of the Church. The principal way we participate in the Church’s sacramental life is through regular reception of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
Dear Parishioners.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Regional School is proud to honor the following exceptional people at the 2017 SEASON to Believe Gala.

Father Gregory Cappuccino – Pastor of St. Frances de Chantal
Laurie & Jim Graham – Faith Formation Committee
Laurie & John Murray Jr. – Faith Formation Committee
Lyn Ryan – Administrative Assistant to Ms. Graziose

As a permanent remembrance of each Gala, a 16 x 20 Scroll of Honor is professionally printed, framed and prominently displayed in the School’s lobby. The success of the Gala depends upon the generosity of our donors. Please consider purchasing a donation for the Scroll of Honor. The donation levels for the Scroll of Honor are:

**Grand Marquis - $1,500**

**Marquis - $1,000** * Diamond - **$500** * Platinum - **$300**

**Gold - $200** * Silver - **$125** * Bronze - **$75**

Please return the bottom half of this form with your level of donation.

If you have any questions, please contact Stacy Romanelli at 457-0558 or seasgalafeb@gmail.com. All Scroll donations need to be in by January 20, 2017.
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Regional Catholic School
Where we “Reach” with Respect, Responsibility & Reverence
Please visit our website at www.steas.com for all our news and current events.

December’s Ambassadors of Christ
K-1 Isabella Katechis
K-2 Hailey Albanese
1-1 Mia Tascarella
   1-2 T.J. Snow
2-1 Evelyn McBrien
2-2 Andrew Gelish
3-1 Kerri Callahan
3-2 Lauren Reyes
4-1 Ella Huggard
4-2 Cristina De Oliveira
5-1 Damien Sileo
5-2 Lena Martorana
6-1 Arianna Manfrelotti
   6-2 Anthony Paz
7-1 Natalia Vega
8-1 Luke LaGattuta

Congratulations! Keep your light shining bright!

Breakfast with Santa was a huge success! Many SEAS families came together to enjoy breakfast hosted by Santa himself! The children were even able to send him a letter with all their Christmas wishes! Thank you to the many volunteers that came together to make this event great!

Christmas Card Raffle
Give the gift of chance to your family, friends, teachers, etc. during this Christmas Season!
Contact the office or Dawn Jewels 865-7962, halodmf@yahoo.com

Thank you Mrs. Yanelli’s class for hosting our first Advent Prayer Service!
As the Church community enters into this Advent season we are called to a period of watchful longing and preparation in anticipation of the birth of Jesus on Christmas day. I liken Advent to an extended vigil period wherein we pray and we are aware-aware of the subtle movements of grace in our hearts. A characteristic of a vigil is that of protection. We do this often—perhaps not even aware we are sitting vigil. Parents who wait through the night with a child who is ill; those who sit at the bedside of a loved one who is preparing for the greatest of transitions—to eternal life after death I suggest the many times we help our children prepare the night before for a test is a vigil. And what of the expectant parents? Is not their wait one of vigil? Praying and protecting the new life within? And so, vigils are intentional, purposeful and prayerful.

As we prepare to welcome the infant Jesus on Christmas day, it is important to consider the measures the Church has implemented, and continues to enforce, in order to keep safe those most vulnerable among us—the children. We have learned from the tragic mistakes of the past—and now we are called to maintain a vigil-to insure the safety of children in our community. To this end, in 2005, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has written The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. The Charter, approved by the full body of bishops outlines the policies and procedures all Dioceses are to implement in their efforts to protect children. Copies of the The Charter are available in the rectory or by contacting the Office for the Protection of Children and Young People (516-678-5800 X.507). In response to the directives set forth in The Charter, the Diocese of Rockville Centre has implemented programs, policies and procedures which every parish, throughout the Diocese, must adhere too. It is important to remember these regulations were established by the USCCB and it is our obligation as faithful members of the community to abide by these. Some of these directives may be familiar to you:

- All employees and volunteers must attend the Virtus program: Protecting God's Children
- All employees and volunteers must sign Codes of Conduct—which outline expected behaviors of those in ministry.
- Volunteers complete a Volunteer Application/Employees complete and Employment Application.
- Consent to be background screened—with this the USCCB acknowledged that historical information is important to the protection of children.
- Established a 24 hour confidential hotline number: 516-594-9063. Anyone suspecting abuse by someone affiliated with the Church is urged to call the hotline. Calls are confidential and responded to within 24 hours.

We were reminded that a vigil is characterized by waiting, by protecting and by prayer. Let us remember that the Vigil to keep all children safe is on-going and requires the diligence of all.

Mary McMahon, LCSW,
Office for the Protection of Children/Young People
In November of 2017 Fr. Kevin will be leading a 10 day pilgrimage to the Holy Land
**FREE CHRISTMAS MAGAZINE OFFER!**

**the long island catholic**
THE MAGAZINE OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Give a FREE Gift of *The Long Island Catholic* magazine!

Do you know someone who would enjoy receiving *The Long Island Catholic* magazine?
Now, when you renew or subscribe for one year of 10 issues for $20, you can also send that special someone a free half-year subscription (5 issues).
Just complete the form below and we’ll do the rest.

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Jesus told the crowd what was special about John the Baptist.

Trace the letters.

Jesus said, “This is the one about whom it is written:

‘I will send My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way before You.’”

John the Baptist was in prison. He heard of the things Jesus was doing. John sent his disciples to ask Jesus if He was the Messiah.

Help John’s disciples get to Jesus.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Find the hidden letters in the picture.

PROPHET

Match the opposites.
Write the missing letter from each group on the line.

Copy the squares into the grid.

Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see.”

Using the word bank and the letter clues, fill in the missing words. Then match the words to the pictures.

- deaf
- lame
- walk
- sight
- good
- news
- blind
- leprosy
- hear
- poor
- cured
- preached

1. The __ __ __ n __ receive
   __ g __ __.

2. The __ __ __ e __ __ l __.

3. Those who have __ __ __ __ __ __ are __ __ r __ __.

4. The d __ __ __ __ r.

5. The __ __ __ d __ __ s
   is __ __ __ __ __ to
   the __ o __ __.