

OUR LITURGY

When we see a picture of the Holy Family, the scene usually looks serene and peaceful. However, right from the start, it was not easy for Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Yet, their family was *holy and full of love*. It is in the ups and downs of family life that we are stretched to make room for more love. This is true in every family, as it was true for the Holy Family.

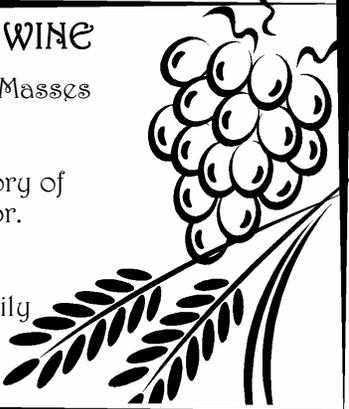
Liturgical Commission Publications, Diocese of Lansing, Lansing, MI

ALTAR BREAD & WINE

The gifts offered at our Masses
this weekend

Are Donated in Memory of
Raymond Griffin Sr.

Requested by
Loving Wife & Family



REMEMBER OUR DEAD

Grace McMahon, Harry Kenney, Donald Stack our deceased soldiers and all of our deceased relatives and friends.

REMEMBER OUR SICK

For this week, please pray for the sick, especially:

Michael Ambrosio	Rob Barello	Susan Bateman
Frank Belsito	Maureen Berdon	Steven Berini
John Biglin	Matthew Boland	Oliver Bouchard
Ash Capparelli	Emmanuel Coby	Thomasina Cosimo
Josephine D'Agostino	Frank J.D'Auria	Alan Delgardo
Amanda Duerr	Robert Filce	Catherine Gracey
Andrea Griffin	Warren Johnson	Gail Karcher
Mr. & Mrs. Keene	Samantha LaRocca	Joan Marten
Rita Meehan	Maureen Melchiona	Timothy M Nigro
Antoinetta Partenope	Julia Patanella	Jonathan Perez
Valerie Perruzza	Grace Peshkur	Molly Piccirillo
Thomas Rigney	Ann Louise Rodriguez	Salvatore Romagnuolo
Frances Romagnuolo	Barbara Rooney	Rose Russo
Joyce Ryan	Mario Schiano	Arlene Shaffer
Antonina Sturiano	Kathleen P. Taylor	Stacie Tizzard
Stephen Walsh	Patrick Wood	Danny Yezzo
Brandon Zartler		

PLEASE NOTE: *To keep our prayer list current, we will keep names on the sick list for two months. We ask families to return the bulletin cut-out to include names of those who are ill for another two months.*

OUR PRIEST-CELEBRANTS

Saturday	This Sunday	Next Sunday	
5:00 pm	No Mass	5:00 pm	No Mass
7:00 am	Fr.Thomas	7:00 am	To Be Announced
9:00 am	Fr.Maffeo	9:00 am	
10:30 am	Fr.Butler	10:30 am	
12:00 pm	Fr.Liu	12:00 pm	
5:00 pm	Fr.Boyle	5:00 pm	

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 26, Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus

- 7:00 For the People of the Parish
- 7:00 Thomas Miceli requested by Bill Romano
- 9:00 For Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus and the Columbiettes
- 10:30 Michelina Carlisle & Robert Duerr requested by Loving Family
- 10:30 Bonserio & DeCeglie Family requested by Loving Family
- 12:00 Giovanni & Guiseppina Feleppa requested by Loving Son Richard
- 12:00 John Ryan requested by Loving Wife & Family
- 5:00 Paul Shadlich, Rita & Bill Hubbard requested by Loving Family
- 5:00 Joseph Papa requested by Tracy Corrigan

Monday, December 27, St. John the Apostle

- 7:00 Arthur Brew requested by Families of Troop 272
- 7:00 R. Alfau requested by Cheryl Dachilli
- 9:00 James Albert requested by Agnes & Alan Simmons
- 9:00 The Midura and Margas Families

Tuesday, December 28, Feast of the Holy Innocents

- 7:00 John Mahoney requested by John & Nicky Martin
- 7:00 For Our Beloved Dead
- 8:45 Maureen Berdon (living) requested by Loving Father
- 8:45 Angelo & Mary Tedesco requested by Michael Tedesco

Wednesday, December 29, St. Thomas Becket

- 7:00 Dominic Tancredi requested by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Lucivero
- 9:00 Dolores Catala requested by Robert & Doreen DeSoto
- 9:00 Felix Zarembo requested by Patricia Carroll & Russell Fabian

Thursday, December 30

- 7:00 Intentions of the Celebrant
- 9:00 Joseph G. Miller requested by Loving Family

Friday, December 31

- 7:00 Intentions of the Celebrant
- 9:00 Stephen Berthe requested by Mr & Mrs Edward Cronin
- 9:00 Muriel Johnston requested by Brian Rodowicz

Anticipated Mass for Solemnity of Mary

- 5:00 For the People of the Parish

Saturday, January 1, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

- 8:00 For the People of the Parish
- 12:00 For the People of the Parish

Anticipated Mass for Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

- 5:00 For the Intentions of the Celebrant

Sunday, January 2, Epiphany of the Lord

- 7:00 For the People of the Parish
- 9:00 Joseph R. Saporito requested by Loving Wife
- 9:00 Edward & Walter Kemy requested by Claire & Jim
- 9:00 For the Intentions of the Celebrant
- 10:30 Edie Ryan requested by Tom & Dorothy Farrell
- 10:30 Stanley Kwiathouski requested by His Loving Family
- 10:30 For the Intentions of the Celebrant
- 12:00 Orlando Rainone requested by Victoria Reynolds
- 12:00 Herbert Kauffmann requested by Clarina Kauffmann
- 12:00 For Our Beloved Dead
- 5:00 Guiseppe & Gerolema LaMarca requested by Loving Daughter Petrina
- 5:00 Angelina Mastrangelo requested by Joyce & Joe Ando
- 5:00 For the Intentions of the Celebrant

IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO BRING UP THE GIFTS AT THE MASSES ON SATURDAY OR SUNDAY, PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE USHERS WHEN YOU ARRIVE FOR MASS.

FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

“Put on as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another, as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts; the peace into which you were also called in one body.” “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Today is the Feast of the Holy Family, and if it seems that it came upon us real fast, well it did. Normally there are at least a few days before this Sunday after Christmas comes upon us. But what can you do when Christmas is on a Saturday-as it was yesterday! Don’t even ask about next year when Christmas is on a Sunday! Usually December 26th is the *Feast of St. Stephen*, the first martyr of the Church and one of the Church’s first Deacons, and while we still remember the sacrifice of Stephen, we will focus more on the Holy Family. *St. Paul’s Letter to the Colossians*, today’s second reading, really gives us the clues as to how we can make a holy family for ourselves-this includes our Immediate Family, our Extended Family, and our Parish Family. We see this in the simple rules/suggestions quoted above. To follow St. Paul’s instructions may not be easy, but it does truly work. After all, they are based on the Teachings of Jesus, to love, to forgive, and to be patient. What could be better? Nothing! Yet, because it is hard to do, we sometimes just don’t do it and some families seem to fall apart. Sometimes people say *well things are bad or we have fallen on hard times*, and while this can certainly cause problems for all families, some seem to survive. Look in today’s Gospel Reading; Jesus, Mary and Joseph were not totally stress free. Herod wants to kill the Infant Jesus and most likely, in turn His mother and father, so they have to flee and go to a strange and distant land living in constant fear. In spite of that, they survived because they trusted in God and shared love and patience with one another.

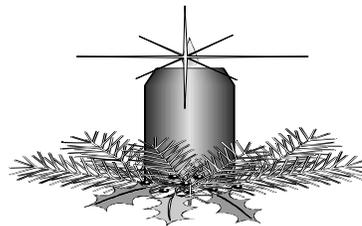
That is always the key to help make things work out. While it is true that some families (no matter how hard they work) are not meant to stay together (and probably should not stay together), if some families that were in danger would listen to St. Paul they might be able to survive. But it is hard, and one of the pressures on the family today is society itself.

Our society, which pays only lip service to the importance of the family, really does not support strong families or true family values-just look what’s on TV. Our society makes us all go out to work and work sometimes 2 or 3 jobs just to keep our heads above water. Our society makes Sunday a regular day of the week so people have to work or shop and thus we have lost the one day when families could get together. And there is so much more.

No, society does not really support the family, so all of us together must. We must help families not to give in to the pressures of the outside world and thus be torn apart at the seams. Please pray for those families that are in trouble, pray that they will be open to the power of the Holy Spirit so they can be healed. Pray that whatever we can do to help, we will do. And whatever we do in word or in deed, we will do in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Let us pray, Father in heaven, creator of all, you ordered the earth to bring forth life and crowned its goodness by creating the family of humanity. When all was ready, you sent your Son to dwell in time. Help us to live as the Holy Family, untied in respect and love. Teach us the sanctity of human life and love and help us to live in peace with all. Grant this through Jesus Christ your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen

Merry Christmas
Fr. Mike



Holiday Hours

The rectory office will be closing at 12:00 on New Years Eve and will remain closed until we resume Sunday hours on Jan. 2 at 9am. We wish all of you a very blessed and happy New Year.

SAYA PRAYER FOR OUR TROOPS

Please continue to remember them in your prayers.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| CPL Jason Bertran | PFC Justin Browne |
| CPL Michael Bruno | PC Michael Dean Cantley |
| CAPT Kevin Connolly | SPC Thomas E. Corcoran |
| CAPT Edward Cuevas | COL Stephen Czerwinski |
| SGT Ryan Delaney | SGT Stephen Gene DiGirolamo |
| PVT Matthew DiNardo | Lt John Kenneth DiNero |
| Lt Nancy DiNero | CPL Keith Flick |
| SFC Raymond Fulton | SSG Jeremy Garcia |
| CAPT Jennifer Gotkin | SPC Daniel Heuman |
| SGT Steven Knight | 1SGT John Krumholz |
| PFC Brian Lane | GM2 Gerard McGarity |
| PFC Edward McGinn | SGT Patrick McNally |
| Andy Mezador | SGT Daniel Montville |
| SPC Tristin Mortensen | SGT James Munro |
| SSG Joey Napolitano | LCPL Thomas Napolitano |
| LCPL Michael Napolitano | LCPL James Neubauer |
| COP Jonathan Norris | PFC Anthony Notaroberta |
| N/Seal Paul Padro | ENS3 Lucy Padro |
| PFC Christopher Reid | SGT Edwin Rivera, II |
| SR/SA Jason Schiavo | RCT Brian Schildt |
| SPC Rudy Schoverling | PO2 Roger Schoverling |
| SSG Thomas J Valentino | SSG Nick Vicale |
| CPL Mark Ward | MAJ Edward Ward |
| CPL Zachary Wilga | SSG Dusty Williamson |

(If you would like to include a soldier from your family who is serving, place their name and rank on a piece of paper and put it in the collection basket)

Religious Education

The Religious Education office is **closed** for the Christmas break. We will **reopen** on Jan 3, 2005.

Office hours are Monday 9 to 4:00
 Tuesday and Wednesday 10 to 3:30
 Thursday from 9 to 3:30.

If you need to reach us after 3:30 pm on Tues, Wed or Thurs please call the school number 588-4760.

The office is closed on Fridays.

Classes will start up again the week of **January 3rd**.

Level 1 Activity on Monday, January 10 at 4:00 pm or 6:30 pm in the Auditorium.

A big **“Thank You”** for the many gifts of cookies, candy and cake to our office, hmmm good.

May you all have a Very Happy and Very Healthy New Year.

Entertainment Books are available in the Religious Ed Office at a cost of only \$20. They make great Christmas gifts !

St. Joseph’s Play Group

Do you like to play in church? Well here’s your chance!

Calling all babies, tots and pre-k boys and girls. Bring your Mom/Dad/sitter to the new St. Joseph Play Group for Catholic families every Friday (except school holidays) at 9:30 AM in Fr.Carew Hall. For information, call Sally Miller 737-5120 or stop down to our first get together on Friday, January 7.

Attention Parents! As you clean out the playroom after Santa’s arrival, please consider donating your gently used toys to the

St. Joseph’s Play Group. We are in need of plastic/wooden toys such as Little People & accessories, blocks, wooden puzzles, gently uses board books, pop-up tunnels and other toys suitable for children from birth to age 5. If you have something to donate, please call Sally Miller 737-5120 to arrange for drop-off or pick-up. Thank you.

School News

May you have the spirit of Christmas which is **PEACE**
 The gladness of Christmas which is **HOPE**
 The heart of Christmas which is **LOVE**
 A wish for Peace and Goodwill to all of Mankind.
 School will reopen on January 3, 2005

Parish Outreach

Thank you for your overwhelming generosity during this holiday season. **You are absolutely wonderful !!!**

PREGNANCY CRISIS HOTLINE—We are here to help you. Please call 981.6888.

Stewardship

When he discovered that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead the protector of the child Jesus and His mother Mary. God grant that I may be as open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Weekly Offering

723 envelopes	\$15,003
Loose collection	2,897
Total Last Sunday	\$ 17,900
Weekly Operating Expenses	21,250
Same collection last year	19,060
Poor Box last weekend	380
Fuel Donations	6,459

Scrip Corner

Our scrip provider has informed us that many of our stock items will not be available until the 2nd week in January. We will be able to provide you with scrip to the local supermarkets. **Don’t forget it costs you nothing more & helps the Parish.**

Calendar Club

And The Winners Are

Dec. 12	\$50	#723	Patrina & Russ Chiarelli
Dec. 13	\$25	#69	Barbara Michelson
Dec. 14	\$25	#714	Ronald & Christine Firestone
Dec. 15	\$25	#533	Ginny Strein
Dec. 16	\$25	#578	Anne & Peter Kelly
Dec. 17	\$25	#576	Anne & Peter Kelly
Dec. 18	\$25	#288	Miranda Tenaglia

Calling All Croupiers

Volunteers are needed to help with our Vegas Nights. We will have training class in the beginning of January. If you are interested in volunteering your time throughout the course of the year please contact Pat Peters at 234-3927 for more information.

Free Throw Competition

The St Regis Squires will be holding their annual Free Throw Competition in our school gymnasium on Saturday, January 8th from 9am to 11:30 am. The competition is open to all boys and girls ages 10-14. There is no cost to participate. For more information, please call Tom Gillin at 981-8229.

RESPECT LIFE

Centuries ago, a young pregnant woman set out on a journey. She was probably nervous and scared, because her pregnancy was unexpected, scandalous, and mysterious. The young woman arrived at her cousin's home, where she hoped she would find welcome and understanding. And she was welcomed – not only by her cousin, but also by another who “leapt in her (cousin's) womb” with joy. The first person to rejoice in the presence of Jesus was an unborn child.

We are reminded of those facts during this and every Christmas season, and some of us can relate this incident to others that are somewhat similar and are happening all around us. Facing an unexpected pregnancy takes courage – how to deal with the shock, how to tell family, what to do next? Expectant mothers, fathers, grandparents and friends all face this challenge. When we remember that God wants life and happiness for all of us, including the preborn child He's created, we find strength to let God make it happen in our lives.

A woman in need of help during an unexpected pregnancy can find it through the Catholic Church. Catholic Charities, Respect Life offices, and crisis pregnancy centers are staffed by loving, nonjudgmental people who simply want to share Jesus' love with women and children during and after the spiritual and material challenges of pregnancy.

A woman who has had an abortion can find help, as well, any priest can offer the healing love of Christ through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and most dioceses have a program called Project Rachel, a special ministry for post-abortive women that sponsors support groups and weekend retreats. Though not directly involved in such a situation, you can pray for all pregnant women especially those who might be struggling with a decision at this very moment.

Nurture nonjudgmental, welcoming attitudes toward pregnant women, the unborn, and young children, no matter what the circumstances. *Welborn, Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., 2003*

On **Tuesday, December 28th**, at 7:30 pm there will be a Mass of the **Feast of the Holy Innocents**, at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Centreach. This is an

Football Benefit Fund

Week 15 Winners

1st Place	2486	G	L	#		
		40	45	37	122	\$100. ⁰⁰
2nd Place	1405	D	G	L		
		35	40	45	120	85. ⁰⁰
3rd Place	2492	G	L	M		
		40	45	34	119	70. ⁰⁰
4th Place	2081	F	G	L		
TIE		33	40	45	118	25. ⁰⁰
	2493	G	L	N		
		40	45	33	118	25. ⁰⁰
Low Score	4317	P	Q	\$		
TIE		5	7	0	12	17. ⁵⁰
	4401	P	X	\$		
		5	7	0	12	17. ⁵⁰

There are **still 1 weeks** of winners to come.

Change in the Sign of Peace

Some members of the Liturgy Committee have brought it to our attention that the newest edition of “General Instruction of the Roman Missal” (which directs us how to celebrate the Mass and went into effect in September) specifies “It is .. appropriate that each person offer the sign of peace only to those who are nearest and in a sober manner.” It later directs “The priest may give the sign of peace to the ministers but always remains within the sanctuary, so as not to disturb the celebration. ... on special occasions the priest may offer the sign of peace to a few of the faithful near the sanctuary.”

It is for this reason that you will notice the priests and servers are no longer leaving the sanctuary during the Mass.

Mark Your Calendars



- Jan 9** Unity Sunday
- Jan 9** 12 Noon Mass Celebration of the Baptism of the Lord Special blessing to all the babies baptized in 2004
- Jan 15th & 16th** Sign Up for March for Life Church Lobby
- Jan 22** Backward Drawing 6PM

St Joseph R C Church Gniward Drawkcab 5002

2005 Backward Drawing

Sponsor Form

I would like to help support the St. Joseph's Backwards Drawing with a Sponsor Donation to cover all or part of the following expense:

(Please check wherever you can help)



DINNER:

Cost - **\$1,000** () *or*
5 x \$200 ()

DESSERT:

Cost - **\$300** () *or*
6 x \$50 ()

BEVERAGES:

Cost - **\$500** () *or*
5 x \$ 100 ()

DISC JOCKEY:

Cost - **\$300** () *or*
3 x \$ 100 ()

OTHER: () _____

I have enclosed a check for this tax deductible donation and I understand that this contribution will be appropriately recognized in the Parish Sunday Bulletin as well as on the evening of January 22nd

Please make checks payable to: *St Joseph Church.*

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TOWN _____

PHONE _____

Can't Think of what to give that relative who has everything? Could they use \$10,000?



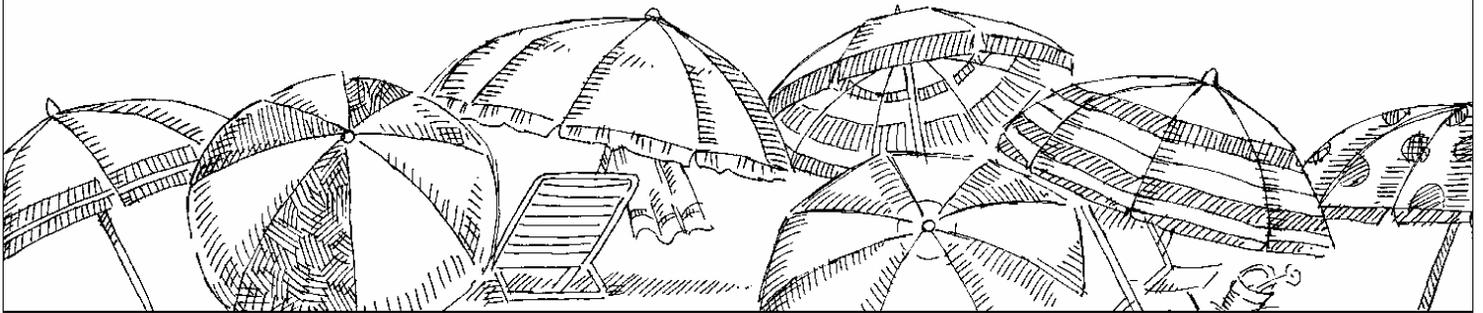
5002 Guinward Drawkcab

2005 Backward Drawing

16 Cash Prizes from \$200 to \$ 10,000⁰⁰

IF ALL TICKETS SOLD. PRIZES PRO-RATED IF TICKETS UNSOLD.

Only 500 Tickets available @ \$100⁰⁰ea



Drawing at St Joseph Church

Saturday, January 22, 2005

Doors open at 7:00 pm

Winner need not be present to win, but it is more fun!

Each Ticket entitles 2 people entrance to party. Extra Guests welcome for \$10.00 a person.

Get together with friends and purchase as a group. The beach is no fun alone!!!

(Ticket Stub Entitles 2 People Entrance to the Party) *Extra Guests welcome for \$10.00 a person.*

\$100.00 Donation Only 500 Tickets Sold

Winners need not be present.

St Joseph RC Church 45 Church St Ronkonkoma, NY 11779

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Phone # _____ # of Tickets _____

Complete this form and return it to the Rectory.

A numbered ticket stub will be returned to you upon receipt of this form with \$100.00 donation.

Please enclose your donation with this order. Thank You.

PARISHIONER REQUEST FORM

I/we would like to register as members of St. Joseph Parish.

NAME(s): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ - _____ *unlisted? (Yes) (No)*

I/we would like to become members of the parish. () Yes
 I/we would like to receive contribution envelopes. () Yes () No
 We make our donations each Sunday () Weekly
 We make our donations once a Month () Monthly

- ..(..)I would like to become an usher
- () I would like to become a lector.
- () I would like to become an altar server.
- () I would like to become a Eucharistic Minister.
- () I would like to become a choir member
- () I would like to become a Catechist
- () I would like to help maintain the parish plantings
- () I would like to offer my following talents to the parish

(Please return to the Church Office or place in Collection Basket)

REMEMBERING THE SICK

Please include the following in the bulletin sick list:

_____ Name of person who is ill:

Person making this request: _____ Relationship to ill person _____

Your Phone #: _____
(Please place in collection basket or return to Church Office)

PARISH RESTORATION FUND

I/we wish to pledge (or increase our pledge to)
 ___ \$5,000 ___ \$4,000 ___ \$3,000 ___ \$2,000 ___ \$1,000
 to St. Joseph's Parish Restoration Campaign.

I/we would like to make payments
 ___ Annually ___ Semi-Annually ___ Quarterly ___ Monthly
 spreading the payments over
 ___ One year ___ Two years ___ Three years ___ Four years

NAME (s): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ - _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED NOW: \$ _____
(Please return this form in the collection basket or to the Church Office)

One Person's Trash, Another's ...

BOX TOPS from cereals for Educational purposes are always welcomed. Please drop them in the collection.

DEPOSIT BOTTLES AND CANS—Please place them in the white trailer that is located on the school side of the Church on weekends or behind the rectory during the week.

CELL PHONES—Please bring your no longer used or needed cell phones and deposit them at the Scrip table in the Church lobby.

Even Used Inkjet Cartridges, Have Their Uses

We have found a way to help St Joseph and keep those complicated pieces of plastic, metal and printed circuit boards out of the land fill. Drop them off (in a plastic baggie) when you come to mass. We will send them to a company who reuses them and gives the parish a bounty for each. One note, to clear confusion, if it is larger than a fist, it is not an inkjet cartridge!!!



**Cub Scout Pack 272
 Boy Scout Troop 272**



St. Joseph's Cub Scout Pack 272 and Boy Scout Troop 272 have fun, exciting, educational, character building programs for boys, age 7 through 17 (*first grade and up*).

For more information or to enroll your child, contact Dr. Louis Scotti at 724-4460 or e-mail JoinScouting@StJoRonk.org.



**Sport for all Seasons
 ST JOSEPH
 CYO**



- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Travel Soccer:
Gene ☎467-0541 | Baseball:
Gene ☎588-1879 |
| Intramural Soccer:
Beth ☎737-6299 | Girls Basketball:
Christine ☎737-3142 |
| Track
Karen ☎588-8636 | Boys Basketball:
Frank ☎585-6921 |
| Chairman: Henry | Melchiona ☎467-6091 |

Events are happening in towns and churches all over Long Island. Discover what's happening in our parish and our community.

Visit our parish pages at **MyChurchandTown.com**