



# Window On ST. MARY'S

*News of the Parish, Ministries, Events & Schools*

SPRING EDITION 2006

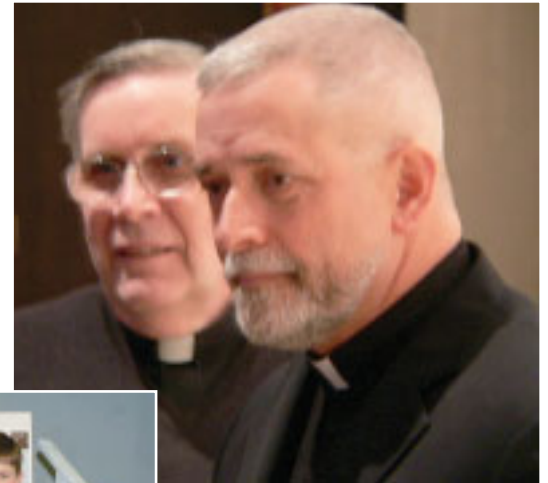
## St. Mary's R.C. Church Adopts Sacred Heart Church in D'Iberville, Mississippi

The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina was devastating to Sacred Heart Parish, the largest parish in the Diocese of Biloxi, Mississippi. Fr. Robert Higginbotham, a native of Biloxi, as well as the current pastor has faced loss before, but never to this extent.

Fr. Bob, as he likes to be called, came to visit our parish of St. Mary's early in February during the blizzard of the century. If you had the pleasure of meeting the man you would have come away with the sense of someone who was put in his present position due to God's will. A military chaplain for the past 20 years, Fr. Bob had also taught 7th grade math in Catholic high school before he joined the service. He certainly felt at home with the children of the elementary school and easily spoke with the high school students regarding his predicament back home.



Fr. Bob with the Community Service Team.



Monsignor McCann and Fr. Higginbotham.



Elena Teixeira presents Fr. Bob with fundraising T-shirt created by the High School.

The storm which struck mercilessly in D'Iberville wiped out the homes of over 60% of his parishioners as well as the rectory and the elementary school. When asked "why did you leave when the storm was approaching?" Fr. Bob answered that the local weather stations were forecasting high water was imminent and he had a growing concern for his three dogs. He sought shelter with his sister who lived a few miles away on higher terrain. He thanks God he left because when he returned he found everything ruined and covered with a thick, goopy slime. Though the buildings were still standing because they were brick, everything inside was destroyed and contaminated due

to the radioactive waste from the nearby plant.

Sacred Heart Parish had 1,500 families registered with an accompanying Elementary School from nursery school to grade 6. Of the original 1,500 families only 900 remain. Since services can not yet

be held in the church, the parish is gratefully accepting the kindness of the local Baptist and Methodist churches to hold Mass. The elementary school building is still unable to function so class is being conducted in the Baptist Church as well. St. Mary's has been asked to help Sacred Heart refurbish its parish school cafeteria so that it can be used for celebrating Masses as well as school purposes. Our goal is to raise \$150,000 of which over \$100,000 has been raised already. Your donations will make this a reality. Please make your checks payable to "St. Mary's Sacred Heart Fund".

Fr. Bob indicated that this is not a situation which can be immediately resolved.  
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### Parish Life Survey Results

In December 2005, the St. Mary's Parish Life Survey was distributed to those attending the parish liturgies. The survey was designed by the Center for Applied Research in the Apolstolate at Georgetown University. View the survey results online at [www.stmary.ws](http://www.stmary.ws).

## Catholic Ministries Appeal

The Catholic Ministry Appeal helps the Church fulfill its mission to reach out to our brothers and sisters in need through the many charitable programs at both the Parish and Diocesan levels. Whether it's through the works of Catholic Charities or the religious education programs, the Catholic Ministries Appeal is rooted in a history of helping people.

Last year, Catholic Charities assisted more than 68,000 people offering programs and services that reach across Long Island to help's God's people in need. Catholic Charities serves the basic needs of the poor, troubled, weak and oppressed and is committed to addressing the causes of injustice.

A primary objective of the Catholic Ministries Appeal is to strengthen parishes financially in union with the Diocese. Each parish has a target for the Appeal. Each dollar raised will also benefit our parish of St. Mary due to the sharing formula which enables us to dedicate funds to support our local projects as well as the Diocesan effort. If you would like to contribute to the Catholic Ministries Appeal, feel free to drop by to the Parish Office to make a donation.

## Preparing the Way During Lent

During this time of preparation for Easter, we encourage you to pray and to draw closer to the Lord. Draw yourself deeper into the spirit of Lent and center your prayer on the scripture readings. You can find the scripture reading used during Mass in the bulletin on the page with the Mass Intentions.

Settle yourself in a quiet place and pick up the Bible and find the readings. Take time to read the scripture and let God's Spirit lead you in prayerful reflection.

We have the following additional spiritual sustenance for the Lenten season:

- **Daily Mass Celebration** - 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon
- **Saturday Mass** - Celebrated at 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
- **Sacrament of Penance** - Saturdays from 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. in the church
- **Eucharistic Adoration** - Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the chapel
- **Stations of the Cross** - Fridays at 7:30 p.m. in the Church

This publication is published by the Church of St. Mary.  
Any comments, questions or submissions should be sent to:

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## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

### Eve of Palm Sunday - April 8th

5:00 p.m.

### Palm Sunday - April 9th

7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,  
12:00 Noon and 5:00 p.m.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation April 10th

3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

### Holy Thursday - April 13th

9:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer

9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. - Confessions

7:30 p.m. - Concelebrated Mass of the  
Lord's Supper and Solemn Procession of  
the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of  
Repose with Adoration until Midnight

### Good Friday - April 14th

9:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer

9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. - Confessions

3:00 p.m. - Solemn Liturgy of the Passion

7:30 p.m. - Living Stations of the Cross  
by Youth Group

### Holy Saturday - April 15th

9:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer

7:30 p.m. - Solemn Mass  
of the Easter Vigil

### Easter Sunday - April 16th

Masses in the Church:

7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.

Masses in Elementary School, Wiest Gym:  
10:45 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.

## Rosary Society Day of Prayer

The Rosary Society will hold its annual day of prayer on Wednesday, March 29, 2006 at Our Lady of Grace Retreat House. Registration begins at 10:00 a.m. Praying of the Rosary is at 10:30 a.m. which will be followed by Holy Mass at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will follow. For more information, please contact Mary Fran Jeffrey at (516)365-0347.



## PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

*Reaching out to others in need*

I came across a poem recently that struck me as ringing so true to the nature of Parish Social Ministry and the Lord's will. This is the second stanza of the poem entitled *Humble Missions* by Michael Dubina. I hope it will give you a feeling of what Parish Social Ministry is all about.

*It is, seldom, deeds of greatness –  
That He plans to have us do –  
And we will not profit riches,  
But for blessings that ensue;  
They are simply humble missions  
That will never bring us fame  
But will justify our being  
And do honor to His name.*

Presently, the Office of Parish Social Ministry has sixteen active ministries. In the near future, the parish will be publishing the updated Ministry Directory and you will be able to read the details of them. In addition, as in the past, the Social Ministry column in the Sunday bulletin will be highlighting these ministries. Our current ministries are:

- Elizabeth Ministry
- Telephone Ministry
- Card Ministry
- F.O.C.U.S.
- Bereavement Ministry
- Food Pantry
- Mental Health Ministry
- Friendly Visitor Ministry
- Home Health Service Ministry
- Eucharistic Ministers to the Sick & Homebound
- Public Policy Education Network
- Volunteer Lawyers Initiative
- Bereavement Letter Ministry
- Compassionate Care Ministry
- 155 East Shore Road Luncheon Ministry
- Bristol Assisted Living Prayer Ministry

Parish Social Ministry also conducts additional programs for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, Back to School, Anthony House, the Manhasset/Great Neck Economic Opportunity Council, and other needy causes. As an ongoing process, we partner with children from St. Mary's Faith Formation classes, St. Mary's High School, and St. Mary's Manhasset Scouting Troops to offer venues of service that these groups can perform as vital members of our parish and community.

At this time, Parish Social Ministry is re-organizing our Friendly Visitor Ministry. This ministry is focused on making home visits, and assisting in any way we can, those who are sick and/or homebound. If you are interested in being a part of this please contact the Office of Parish Social Ministry at 365-2705 or by e-mail: socialmin@stmary.ws.

Peace and Blessings!

**Christine Sutherland**  
*Acting Coordinator*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 23rd**

**F.O.C.U.S. Bridge**

Marian Room of the Parish Ministry Center.  
Pre-registration required.

**April 26th**

**F.O.C.U.S. Bridge**

Marian Room of the Parish Ministry Center.  
Pre-registration required.

**May 3rd**

**F.O.C.U.S. Mass and Dinner**

St. Ignatius Retreat House, 5:00 PM  
Pre-registration required.

**Spring Bereavement** session for widows and widowers to be determined. More information will follow in the Sunday bulletin.



Cub Scouts from St. Mary's 4th Grade, Den #5, Pack #101 playing BINGO with senior residents of 155 East Shore Road on February 2, 2006.



## Hot Button Issues

**Understanding Homosexuality**  
Tuesday, March 28, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

**The DaVinci Danger**  
Tuesday, May 23, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

The Catholic view on sensitive topics that affect us. Discussion to follow. Presented by Fr. Nicholas Zientarski in the Marian Room.

## HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

### Gael Fashion Show – A Tribute to Nancy Alexander

On Wednesday, February 15, 2006, the Gaels Parents' Association of St. Mary's College Preparatory High School held their Annual Fashion Show and Dinner at Leonard's of Great Neck. The evening crystallized to a beautiful Winter Wonderland mood at Leonard's which included a 10 foot inflatable snow globe of Frosty the Snowman. Decorations of faux snow and iridescent snowflakes were highlighted with beautiful candle lights to create an intimate setting to gather and enjoy a delightful evening.

The evening began with raffles and auctions over cocktails. As the evening progressed, the dinner began with a special tribute to a woman who dedicated her time and talent year after year for the benefit of St. Mary's College Preparatory High School even after both her sons graduated from the school. She had



*Dr. Kevin McBride and Nancy Alexander*

held the title of Gaels Parents' President for seven years and just last year passed the baton to Alice Evans, the current Gaels President. Nancy Alexander, a Manhasset native, wife, mother and attorney for the New York law firm of Kramer, Levin, et. al was honored that evening. Dr. Kevin McBride, the school's principal, was the first to speak of the dedication and caring Nancy Alexander brought to the school. Her passion and hard work made a difference in

the lives of the students at St. Mary's High School. Next her good friend and fellow Gaels Parents' Association member, Janet McHale spoke about Nancy and her accomplishments. Janet lauded Nancy for making "the job of being president of the Gaels Parents' Association look easy" despite all her hard work and preparation that made the events come off without a hitch, and stating "we always had fun!"



*The Fashion Show Committee and Nancy Alexander*

Next, Fr. Kevin Smith spoke in his refreshing style of the experiences he had had with Nancy over the years and how the parish of St. Mary's has the luck of having such a wonderful volunteer and parishioner. After a standing ovation, Nancy was presented with a beautifully engraved crystal plaque for time and dedication to St. Mary's High School. Her close family and friends including Liza

Dillon, Nancy's sister, Barbara Buckley, Dorothy Forte, Gail Mulligan, Debbie Meyer, Susan Bishop, Lori DeCerbo Chris Kitt, and Marilyn Pymm, enjoyed sharing the tribute with Nancy at her table.

The evening continued with a peek at today's glamorous fashions for the well heeled teen. Day wear was the first part of the Fashion Show. Beautifully dressed with gorgeous fashions from Talbots were modeled by seniors from St. Mary's High School. Their escorts were dressed in tuxedos by Victor Talbot of Greenvale. Their hairstyles and make-up were done by Sorrell, Roslyn. The second half of the show had exciting evening wear by Teen Pix in Syosset. The models were trained by fashion extraordinaire Susan Bishop who coached them through the runway event.



*Beautiful Models*

## High School Sports

St. Mary's High School basketball teams have had a tremendous season this year. The Girls' Varsity Basketball Team has succeeded in getting into the playoffs in the B League. They suffered defeat against Our Lady of Mercy in the B championship with a score of . The Boys' Varsity Basketball had a phenomenal season winning 20 games out of the 25 played. They continued their winning ways qualifying for the Boy's AA Championships. In a close game, they lost to their opponents St. Dominic's by one point 56-55. Coach Rob Jones was pleased with the overall results of the team.

The hockey team continues their winning ways by qualifying for the New York State Championships. In February, the Gaels won the qualifying round at Newburgh, N.Y., to continue the tradition of excellence. The Championships will be held on the weekend of March 25 through the 26th. Go Gaels!

### **Spring Sports Begin.....**

With March madness upon us, St. Mary's High School spring sports has begun. Come out and support our baseball, softball, girls and boys lax, golf and track teams. You'll love it!

## Ireland Trip

During the winter break this past February, 39 students from St. Mary's High School took a trip with 6 adults and teachers from the school to see the emerald isle of Ireland. The students started out in Dublin, with a morning of sightseeing beginning with a local guide introducing the students the city. They discovered statue-filled O'Connell Street, Trinity College and the Book of Kells, Ireland's most richly decorated medieval illuminated manuscript. The group strolled through St Patrick's Cathedral and in the afternoon, explored the trendy Temple Bar area. On day four of the journey, the group traveled to Killarney. On the way, they saw the Rock of Cashel. Traveling southward, they reached Cork, the ancestral home of many Americans. Of course, they went to Blarney Castle, where several went to kiss the Blarney Stone.

The Dingle Peninsula was site of some of Ireland's most beautiful scenery. They saw towering Brandon Mountain to the north and the west coast had some spectacular seascapes. The students saw fascinating antiquities ranging from early Christian beehive huts to Iron Age forts. The trip continued north through Limerick, where they visited the Norman castle of King John and Bunratty Folk Park and Castle ending up in the delightful City of Galway. The next day the group learned about the poet W.B. Yeats visiting Thoor Ballylee, his summer home. They saw the autograph tree in Coole Park, signed by many famous visitors including George Bernard Shaw. Finally, the group visited the Burren to see the dramatic and exhilarating Cliffs of Moher.

They also experienced the music, step dancing and friendliness of this island of saints and scholars. What fun and adventure they all had!

## St. Mary's R.C. Church Adopts Sacred Heart Church

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ately fixed, it will take years to get up and running. Right now there are not enough contractors available in the area to do the work that needs to be done. In the meantime, he asks that you not forget Sacred Heart just because there is nothing in the media.



*Fr. Bob accepts a donation at reception held during the blizzard of 2006.*

## Telecare – Scholar Service Institute



*Fr. Frank, Diana Di Leonardo, Mike Baez, Ray Andersen, Elena Teixeira, Eileen McMahon and Astrid Rousseau at TeleCare studios.*

The Scholar Service Institute, a unique program at St. Mary's High School, was profiled in an episode of *Making a Difference with Fr. Frank* in a broadcast on February 27th on Cablevision Channel 29. The Institute encourages academic excellence and Christian service. Five members of the senior class, Ray Andersen, Mike Baez, Diana DiLeonardo, Astrid Rousseau and Elena Teixeira, travelled with their chairwoman, Ms. Eileen T. McMahon to Telecare Studios in Uniondale to tape the show. A film crew had come to St. Mary's the prior Tuesday to hear from other members of this first time televised group of scholars. Sophomore and junior members are seen in still photos as part of a video package containing interviews with the seniors, Dr. Kevin McBride, Mr. Jonathan D. Kramer and Ms. McMahon. The students explained what drew them to the program, what challenged them, the satisfaction they have gained from participation and detailed some of their projects. Eighty-five students are currently members of the Institute, and forty-two freshmen have been invited to join.

Projects done by the students mainly fall into the educational and support for existing direct action categories. For example, Cynthia Capobianco and Gabby Movaseghi sold lollipops to benefit the American Heart Association. Mike Baez had a Mardi Gras party on February 16th and sent the funds raised to Sacred Heart Parish in Mississippi. James Segarra conducted a lecture on how to safeguard one's computer. On February 16th, Hara Stephanou started up a chapter of Free the Children which tries to raise awareness of students who are exploited in sweatshops around the world. Carolyn Sheehan is trying to arrange a leadership conference with Mr. Dolan, the founder of Cablevision, at St. Mary's. For further information, see the Scholar Service weblink to the St. Mary's High School webpage at [www.stmaryhighschool/SSI/index.html](http://www.stmaryhighschool/SSI/index.html).

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

### Take A Break



Theresa Perrella with Event Chairs Adrienne Comerford and Liz Procaccino.

The 10th Annual Take a Break 2006 will be held on April 1, 2006 at North Hills Country Club. Cocktails begin at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 8:00 p.m. Many people have been busy putting together a fabulous evening to celebrate the 80th year of St. Mary's Elementary School. To book a reservation, please contact Theresa Perrella in the Development Office at (516) 627-4605. The following chairpersons are working together to make this one of the best events of the year:

- Event Chairs: Adrienne Comerford & Liz Procaccino
- Kids Crafts: Traci Clinton, Mary Thomas, Michelle Bernic
- Video Chair: Nancy Ferraris
- Invitation Chairs: Lisa Motti & Zhara Jafri
- Mentors: Barbara McNamara & Mary Pat Pilch
- 50/50 Mentor: Margo Coleman
- Centerpiece Chair: Maria Simeone
- Journal Chair: Trish and Tim Ahern

Come join the fun!

### Cultural Arts

St. Mary's Elementary School has brought several special education programs to the elementary school children this school year. The latest in Cultural Arts was *Amelia Bedelia*, and other stories for Kindergartners through grade 4. The program was done by Theatreworks USA in Manhattan. This is the second production from Theatreworks that was well received by the student body. Earlier this year, *Thomas Alva Edison, Inventor, Lecturer and Prankster* was shared by kindergartner through 6th grade. Presenting one of America's most remarkable minds, *Thomas Alva Edison*, engaged St. Mary Elementary School students with an exciting, hands-on, motivational program. The students in the audience had the chance to help recreate some of Edison's most famous experiments.

### Talent Show

Talent extraordinaire! That is the mantra of the elementary school students at St. Mary's. The students gathered at Immaculata auditorium on January 29th to share their professional abilities with one another and their parents. The audience enjoyed performances by soloists, pianists, dance troupes, and dramatists. Here is just a peek at the truly talented youth at St. Mary's Elementary School.



Tim Hanna

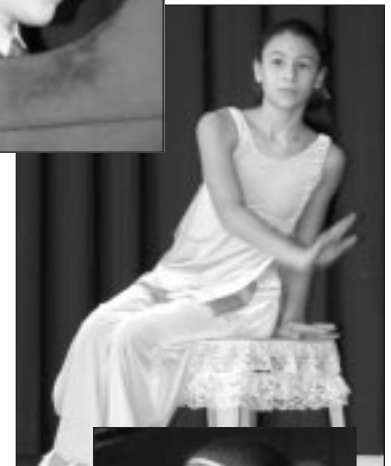


Vincent deVenoge

Bianca Sagliocca



Kimberly Medina



Catherine Braxton

*Join us...*

for the Elementary School production of  
**"Let's Go to the Movies"**  
Performances held on May 4th, 5th and 6th.

## Education Tax Credits

On February 14, 2006, a bus load of St. Mary's Catholic Elementary School parents attended a rally at the State Capital in Albany to show support for legislation to enact education tax credits.

Education tax credits are a way for the government to reduce the taxes for individuals or corporations for their expenses and/or investments in the area of education. Education tax credits are divided into two categories:

1. personal expense tax credits such as when a family has to pay for instructional materials, tutoring, school tuition, educational software and computers, special education services, or when a teacher has personally paid for classroom supplies or continuing education courses; and

2. education investment tax credits such as when a corporation or individual makes a donation to a school or an organization that supports education through scholarships, afterschool programs, etc.

Tax credits are typically more generous than tax deductions. A tax credit is a reduction of the amount of taxes owed. A tax deduction is a reduction of income on which taxes are paid. Education Tax Credits are constitutional, having been upheld by the Supreme Court more than 23 years ago. To give your support register online at [www.nyscatholic.org](http://www.nyscatholic.org) before March 31, 2006.

## Neighbors in the News

On November 7, 2005 the New York State Senate unveiled its groundbreaking online Veterans' Hall of Fame. One of the inductees included in the Hall of Fame's inaugural class is Manhasset resident, William A. Baxter.

There is an exhibit at the Manhasset Public Library which celebrates Mr. Baxter's induction into the Veterans' Hall of Fame as well as his years of outstanding service to both his country and local community.



St. Mary's group at Right to Life March on January 23, 2006.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

This summer the Youth Ministry of Manhasset will be working to serve the poor. The Summer Service in Yakima, Washington will provide our youth with the opportunity to minister to the poor on the Pacific coast from July 16-22, 2006. St. Mary's will be joining youth groups from all over the United States in this week long learning experience sponsored by Young Neighbors in Action, a division of the Center for Ministry Development, a Catholic non-profit organization based in Connecticut. Our youth will become familiar with Catholic social teaching through service, prayer and community living. This program has been well received by our Manhasset youth and is totally booked.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The season of Holy Lent is the opportunity for each one of us to enter more deeply into the mystery of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ. Our classes have been reviewing the Gospel readings each week and thinking about who the Lord Jesus is and how He is present in our lives each day. All of our classes will be reviewing the events of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Our classes in grades 3 and 5 will be coming to the church to say the Stations of the Cross for Children. Grades 6 and 7 will be joining the larger community on two Friday evenings in March to say the Stations of the Cross. Our 7th and 8th graders will also be watching part of the 1977 series, *Jesus of Nazareth*, to more fully understand and witness the events of Good Friday. We hope these prayerful experiences will help them to appreciate the great love God has shown for us through His son Jesus.

The second graders have already prepared for and received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. They are now learning about the parts of the Mass and preparing for their First Holy Communion in May. Their parents have been a big support, bringing them to Holy Mass each week and helping them to learn the actions and prayers of the Mass. Our eighth graders are also preparing for the Sacrament of Communion. That snowy weekend in February, they managed to come to Saturday or Sunday Mass and present the pastor with letters indicating their desire to be confirmed. They will be going on retreat at the end of March to consider how they will live their lives as followers of Christ. Bishop Paul Walsh will be confirming them on May 2nd. I do hope that you will keep all of these children in your prayers during the coming months.

Throughout the year our classes have been doing service projects to help those in need through our Parish Outreach Office. They have also donated clothing and school supplies to local areas, donated money to organizations like the Smile Train and the Interfaith Nutrition Network and visited the Newman Residence and Little Flower Children Services to be the loving presence of Christ to others. Presently our 5th and 6th graders are donating the paper goods and some of the food for the Lenten Soup Supper on March 24th. The proceeds of that event will be going to Sacred Heart Parish in Mississippi. We can all be very proud of the generosity and compassion of our parish children as they continue to grow in their daily lives. May God continue to bless them and their families.

## Meet Jay McDonnell St. Mary's New Alumni Director



St. Mary's High School new Alumni Director, John McDonnell, (or Jay as he likes to be called), is busy working with the Alumni Board on upcoming events and information which will improve alumni relations with over thirteen thousand St. Mary's High

School graduates.

Jay grew up on Long Island in Northport. He graduated from Xavier University with a B.A. in public relations. After he graduated, he became a program director for the Community Counseling Service in New York soliciting major gifts and running fundraising campaigns. He left New York to live in Florida, but came back after 9/11/01 to be close to his family. Jay's father is a New York City Fire Department battalion chief. Jay is married and has two little girls.

For more informations or to become involved in the St. Mary's High School Alumni Association, please call Jay at (516) 627-4605 or contact him at [jmcdonnell@stmary.ws](mailto:jmcdonnell@stmary.ws).

# *Save the Date...* The Church of St. Mary Parish Golf Outing Monday, June 5, 2006

## North Hempstead Country Club

*For more information contact  
Theresa in the Development Office at 627-4605.*

*Window On*  
**ST. MARY'S**

**Saint Mary's R.C. Church**

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Manhasset, New York 11030

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