





Parish Mission Statement

We, the community of St. Mary's, Manhasset, building on our rich heritage of Catholic faith and tradition, center ourselves in the Eucharist and honor God in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, we seek to be the presence of Christ through our liturgical, educational and social ministries. We dedicate our time, talent and treasure to the service of all as we build the kingdom of God in our world. We commit to this mission in the name of Jesus Christ.

Masses for the Week

Monday, March 30th

Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62, Jn 8:1-11

7:00 AM Edward Abkarian

9:00 AM Anne LaVaute

12 Noon Robert King

Tuesday, March 31st

Nm 21:4-9, Jn 8:21-30

7:00 AM Edith Ciniglio

9:00 AM Frances Doran

12 Noon Veronica Polchow

Wednesday, April 1st

Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95, Jn 8:31-42

7:00 AM Joan SanAngelo

9:00 AM Edwin R. Werner and

Alice Hartmann

Thursday, April 2nd**St. Francis of Paola**

Gn 17:3-9, Jn 8:51-59

7:00 AM Constance Roberti

9:00 AM Geraldine Baker

12 Noon Robert Breslin

Friday, April 3rd

Jer 20:10-13, Jn 10:31-42

7:00 AM Briana Moroney (living)

9:00 AM Mildred Schnurr

12 Noon Mary Lee Adams

Saturday, April 4th**St. Isidore**

Ez 37:21-28, Jn 11:45-56

8:00 AM Janet Conlon

5:00 PM Margaret Rafferty,

Ellie Yalongo, Walter France,

Frank Matarese, John E. Shields

Sunday, April 5th**Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**

Mk 11:1-10, Is 50:4-7, Phil 2:6-11,

Mk 14: 1-15, 47

7:30 AM Rev. Msgr. John J. Wiest

9:00 AM Dorothy Dietz Smith

10:30 AM For the People of the Parish

12 Noon Purgatorial Society

5:00 PM Armanine Gentile

Parish Directory

Rev. Msgr. John J. McCann - Pastor

627-0385 ext. 1004

Diane Bayen

Music Director

627-0385 ext. 1021

Deacon Frank Bice

627-0385

Anthony Chiofalo

Controller

627-0385 ext. 1007

Lorraine Czarniak

Faith Formation Gr. K-8

627-4028 ext. 1127

Msgr. Joseph DeGrocio

Sunday Assistant

Fr. Michael Galea

627-0385 ext. 1101

Vincent Hartley

Facilities Manager

627-0385 ext. 1002

Deacon Charles Kammerer

627-0385

Patricia McDonough

Director of Youth Ministry

627-0385

Dr. Jo-Ann Metzdorff

Pastoral Associate

627-0385 ext. 1010

Theresa Perrella

Parish & Elementary School

Development Office

627-0385 ext. 1160

Fr. Allan Sikorski

Associate Pastor

627-0385 ext. 1006

Christine Sutherland

Parish Social Ministry

365-2705 ext. 1126

Eileen Symmons '86

Director of Communications

627-0385 ext. 1001

William Wrensen

Faith Formation Gr. 9-12

627-4028 ext. 1164

Saint Mary's Elementary School

627-0184 | www.stmary11030.org

Celeste M. Checchia, PhD

Principal

Elaine Drzymalski

Assistant Principal

Saint Mary's College Preparatory High School

Dr. Kevin McBride, Principal 627-2711

Kristin Lynch Graham '88, Director of Development 627-4605

Jay McDonnell, Director of Alumni Relations 627-4605

Please Pray for the Ill

Janice Thorkelsen

Livia Richards

Robert J. Kohlhagen

Helen Stasky

Grace Pirozzi

Louis Sassi

Jack Joseph Lewinger

Madison Claire Lewinger

Stasia Alvarez

Eva Fabian

Gene Travers

Names will remain on the list for 3 months. Please notify the Bulletin Editor if you would like to continue.

In Memoriam



Rosemarie Messina

Arthur Kear

Joan Donahue



From the Pastor's Desk

A DAY TO GO TO CONFESSION

The Monday of Holy Week (April 6th) confessions will be held from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM at St. Mary's and all of the churches in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. We encourage you to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of your spiritual preparation for Easter.

CONFIRMATION

This Wednesday, Bishop Peter Libasci, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre and Vicar of the Eastern Vicariate, will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for our Eighth Graders.

Please remember our young candidates for Confirmation in your prayers this week.

Because of the preparations needed for the Confirmation Masses there will be NO NOON Mass this Wednesday, April 1st.

THE COLLECTIONS

In light of the current conditions in the world the Diocese asked us this week to give them a report on the parish's regular collection for the first six months of the current fiscal year (9/1/08-8/31/09). I thought I would share the information with you.

	9/08-2/09	9/07-2/08
Sunday & Holy days	\$707,809	\$713,947
Christmas	\$219,065	\$250,979
Total	\$926,874	\$964,926

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

I thank those who have made a gift to this year's CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL.

To date \$159,000 has been pledged toward our parish goal of \$190,000.

If you have not as yet made your gift to the 2009 Catholic Ministries Appeal, please consider making your gift this week.

Remember that a portion of your gift to the Catholic Ministries Appeal is returned to St. Mary's to help us continue our parish ministries.

If you have misplaced the Appeal envelope that was sent to your home, you can find envelopes on the tables at the entrance to the Church.

God Bless!

Msgr. John McCann

Holy Week In St. Mary's

Monday, April 6th

Masses: 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 12 NOON

Confessions: 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Tuesday, April 7th

Masses: 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 12 NOON

Wednesday, April 8th

Masses: 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 12 NOON

Holy Thursday, April 9th

9:00 AM

Morning Prayer

7:30 PM

Mass of the Lord's Supper with

Procession of the Blessed Sacrament

to the Altar of Repose

Adoration will follow Mass until Midnight.

Good Friday, April 10th

A Day of Fast and Abstinence

9:00 AM

Morning Prayer

9:30 - 10:30 AM

Confessions

3:00 PM

Liturgy of the Passion

7:30 PM

Living Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday, April 11th

9:00 AM

Morning Prayer

9:30 - 10:30 AM

Confessions

8:00 PM

Mass of the Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, April 12th

Note Special Mass Schedule

Church

7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:15 PM

Elementary School Gym

10:45 AM, 12:30 PM

No 5:00 PM Mass



Lent at St. Mary's

DAILY MASS DURING LENT

will be celebrated at 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM and 12 NOON (Monday to Friday). Due to Confirmation there will be **No Noon Mass** on April 1st. On Saturday, Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 AM.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday afternoons from 4:00 to 4:45 PM.
Monday, April 6th from 3:00 - 9:00 PM
Good Friday, April 10th 9:30-10:30 AM
Holy Saturday, April 11th, 9:30-10:30 AM

FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Those who have reached their fourteenth year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on all of the Fridays of Lent.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Thursdays 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Benediction at 7:45 PM
in the Chapel.

There will be no Adoration on Holy Thursday until after the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

will be held in Church each Friday at 7:30 PM.

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Wednesdays at 7:30 AM in the Ministry Center.

LITTLE ROCK SCRIPTURE GROUP

Mondays at 10:00 AM in the Ministry Center.

CATHECHISM EXPRESS

Mondays at 7:40 PM in the Ministry Center.

MONDAYS WITH MARY

Mondays at 9:30 AM in the Sharp Library.

See the Pastor's page for the Holy Week schedule.

Palm Sunday Family Mass



Procession of the Palms

Next Sunday, the children will process with palms at the beginning of the 9:00 AM Family Mass.

Please arrive early and bring your child to the front porch of the rectory to receive their palm and line up for the procession. If it is raining, the children will assemble in the south vestibule.

Keep informed on the Markey Bill

See the
New York State Catholic Conference
web site at
www.nyscatholic.org
or the
Diocese of Rockville Centre
web site at
www.drvc.org.

On March 17th, a bill was reported out of the NYS Assembly Committee on Codes that, if passed, would discard a fundamental principle of American jurisprudence and potentially decimate the health, social service and educational ministries of the Catholic Church and other religious institutions. The bill now goes to the full Assembly, and we need your help to stop it.

Please inform yourself about this bill and its alternative, the Lopez Bill, which does not discriminate against classes of victims. See pages 12 & 13 of this bulletin for more information.



Stewards of God's Gifts

“If anyone would serve me,” says Jesus in today’s Gospel, “Let him follow me; where I am, there will my servant be.” In what ways is Jesus inviting me to follow Him? What service



We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who give humbly and sincerely with out expectation of repayment out of gratitude to our generous God.

The collection for Sunday, March 22nd, 2009 amounted to **\$21,542.**

Credit Cards amounted to **\$3176.** totaling **\$24,718.**

The collection for Sunday, March 23, 2008 (Easter Sunday) amounted to **\$99,298.**

Catholic Relief Services Collection on March 22nd amounted to **\$5,347.**

The Children’s collection for Sunday, March 22nd, 2009 amounted to **\$18.**

Children’s Time & Talent: **keeping Lent, loving, babysitting, practicing piano.**

Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing



Reading I: Jeremiah 31:31-34

I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts.

Reading II: Hebrews 5:7-9

Jesus Christ is the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

Gospel: John 12:20-33

Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be.

Question for Adults:

What actions of sacrifice in my life are producing lasting benefit for myself and others?

Question for Children:

Do I recognize the sacrifices others make for me?
Do I thank them for their love?

Save the Date



Church of Saint Mary

12th Annual Parish Golf & Tennis Classic and Dinner

**Thursday, June 18, 2009
Plandome Country Club**

**Honoring
Dr. Thomas A. Nicosia
and Dr. Florence Barricelli**

For more information
please contact
Theresa Perrella at
516-627-0385, ext. 1160
or via E-mail at
development@stmary.ws

www.stmary.ws



Adult Faith Formation

Catechism Express

We will not be meeting for the next three weeks due to rehearsals for Confirmation, and Holy Week and Easter.

Sessions will resume again on Monday, April 20th.

All are invited to attend.

Coming April 22nd



Introduction to the Christian Scriptures

5 week basic course in the New Testament
Ms. Lorraine Czarniak, MA- Instructor
10:00 AM - Noon or 7:15-9:15 PM
Register in the Parish Office by April 15th
\$25 course fee.

Do You Know?

This week's question: *Next week is Palm Sunday. At Mass this day we will hear two Gospel passages. What is the significance of hearing two?*

Answer to last week's question: *What is the difference between adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle and adoration during exposition?* Following the consecration of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Our Lord at Mass, Christ continues to be present in our midst beyond the Eucharistic liturgy when the consecrated host is either reposed in a tabernacle or exposed on the altar in a monstrance. If we can adore the Eucharistic presence of Christ when reposed in a tabernacle, why do we then need to expose the Blessed Sacrament on an altar? It is not essential for exposition to take place to have Eucharistic adoration, yet people report experiencing a greater sense of intimacy with Jesus and attentiveness of mind and heart to prayer when they are able to actually "see" our Eucharistic Lord. Moreover, according to Church regulations exposing the Blessed Sacrament for a period of time requires the presence of a sufficient number of people to be there and therefore fosters the commitment needed to establish and sustain a meaningful parish Eucharistic adoration program.

R.C.I.A.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Next year we will be in need of new team members for our R.C.I.A. process. We have seen an increase in the number of people wishing to be received into the faith and some of our catechists are retiring. We also find we may have a need for catechists for R.C.I.A. adapted for children. We meet on Sunday mornings following the 10:30 AM Mass. Training will be provided. All that is required is a great desire to share your faith.

New Inquirers are accepted at any time during the year. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Catholic, or if you would like to join the team, please call Jo-Ann Metzdorff in the Parish Office, 627-0385 or e-mail joannm@stmary.ws for more information.



Revival Glory Prayer Meeting

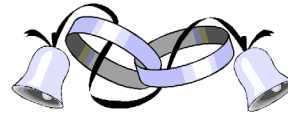


**FRIDAY, APRIL 3rd
3:30 - 5:30 PM**

(please note the change in day due to the celebration of Confirmation on Wednesday April 1st)

ST. MARY'S CHAPEL
ALL ARE WELCOME

*"Prayer groups are powerful, and through them I can see, little children that the Holy Spirit is at work in the world."
-Our Lady of Medjugorje, June 2004*



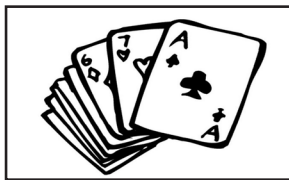
Diocesan Golden Wedding Jubilee Celebration

On Sunday, May 3rd, 2009, couples married 50 years or more are invited to a special Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Paul Walsh at Maria Regina Church in Seaford, at 2:30 PM.

Please pick up your registration card at the rectory, fill it out and return it to the rectory in time to reach the Diocese of Rockville Centre no later than April 19th. Approximately one week to ten days before the ceremony information regarding the day will be mailed to you.

If you have any questions you may call
516-678-5800, ext 242.

Game Day at Our Lady of Grace



We hope you will continue to join us to play Bridge and other games.

**Tuesday, March 31st, April 28th,
May 26th and June 30th
12:00 Noon**

Please bring your lunch.
Beverages & dessert will be provided.

\$10 donation. For reservations or further information please call Mary Masso at 627-4981 or Mary Keogh at 627-1016.

Liturgical Minister Training

The diocese is offering training for new **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**, and **Lectors** on Saturday April 25th at Kellenberg Memorial HS. Anyone considering being nominated for the ministry of Extraordinary Minister must be a practicing Catholic over 18 years of age, and, if married, must be in a valid sacramental marriage and living according to Catholic moral principles. We are not looking for homebound ministers at this time, but only those who can assist on Sunday's and Holy Days. However, those who have not taken Part B (for the homebound, hospitals and nursing homes) of the training are welcome to do so on May 9th. Please send a letter to Msgr. McCann with your request by April 1st.



Parish Social Ministry

Coffee
Tea
Syrup

Canned Fruit
Juice

Instant potatoes
Pancake Mix



Donations may be placed in the food baskets located in the north and south lobbies of the church or brought to the Parish Social Ministry office located on the ground floor level of the convent facing the east side of the church. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!



EASTER CANDY COLLECTION

Parish Social Ministry will be collecting Easter candy through Friday, April 3rd. This candy will be distributed to needy children of the parish and community for their Easter baskets. **We are collecting chocolate bunnies, chocolate eggs and jelly beans.** If you are looking for a specific idea, please take an egg from one of the Easter baskets located at each entrance of the church. Donations may be left in the collection boxes located in the north and south lobbies of the church, or at the Parish Social Ministry office. Your participation in this collection is warmly welcomed!



What You Need to Know

About a Program
that Prevents Hunger
and Improves Nutrition
for Better Health

At this most difficult economic time, the **Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP)** may be able to help. NOEP is a network of local community-based organizations that have expertise in helping New Yorkers enroll in the Food Stamp Program. The Food Stamp Program is a federally funded nutrition assistance program that helps people to purchase the food they need to stay healthy. Eligible recipients purchase food at any supermarket with an Electronic Benefit Card (EBT), which functions like a debit card.

Due to recently increased guidelines and more generous deductions, **seniors (60 years and older) and families with significant child and dependent care expenses** may now be eligible for nutrition assistance through food stamp benefits. For more information contact:

Nassau County – Health & Welfare Council of Long Island at 516-483-1110 ext. 432

Suffolk County – Catholic Charities of the Diocese of RVC at 631-789-9546



Faith Formation Grades 1-8

Confirmation Practices will be held at the following times:

Monday, March 30th from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM. (for 2:00 PM ceremony)

Classes of: Mr. Collins, Mrs. Conway, Mrs. Mulholland/Coleman, Mrs. Lentini and the St. Mary's Elementary School students.

Monday, March 30th from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM (for 4:30 PM ceremony)

Classes of: Mrs. Coughlin, Mrs. A. Gallo, Mrs. R. Gallo, Mrs. Impellizeri, Mrs. Lavelle, Mrs. Welsh and the two students from Holy Child Academy.

We are happy to say 187 of the young people of our parish will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday, April 1st. The Celebrant will be

Most Reverend Peter Libasci, Auxiliary Bishop of Rockville Centre.

Please support these children and their families with your prayers.



REMINDER - 7th GRADE FAITH FORMATION

There will be NO CLASS on Monday, March 30th.

7th graders are expected to attend the Confirmation Talk on Sunday, April 26th with Mr. Tony Belizzi.



SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

The following students of **St. Mary's College Preparatory High School**, who are also members of St. Mary's Parish have achieved honors in the second marking period. We congratulate these students and their parents.

First Honors

- Grade 9: Alexa Lollo, Conor McNamara
- Grade 10: Jenna Accardi, Mia Cosentino, Juliette deVenoge, Olivia Evans, Thomas Mondello, Bianca Sagliocca
- Grade 12: Vaughn Ayroso, Anna deVenoge, Marianne Marino

Second Honors

- Grade 9: JohnPatrick Kiggins, Jessica Megerian, Valerie Washburn
- Grade 10: Laura Doyle, Leonard Marino
- Grade 11: Megan Anderson, Samantha Mendolia
- Grade 12: Caroline Doyle, Brittany Evans, Dayna Smith, Nicole Tarko



The bread and wine this week are offered in memory of

Philip & Viola Rizzo

If you would like to make an offering of the bread and wine for the week, please call the Parish Office.

MASS SCHEDULE

April 4th & April 5th (subject to change)

- 5:00 p.m. Saturday, April 4th Fr. Michael Galea
7:30 a.m. Sunday, April 5th Fr. Jeremias George
9:00 a.m. Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco
10:30 a.m. Msgr. John J. McCann
12:00 p.m. Fr. Michael Galea
5:00 p.m. Fr. Allan Sikorski

Attention Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors

Holy Week assignments have been sent to lectors. EM assignments will be finalized this week. Any EM who would like to serve on Easter Sunday, but who is not on the regular weekend schedule, please contact Jane Clifford as soon as possible.

It is vitally important that you keep your assignment or find a replacement.

We thank all those who are serving during this busy season.



ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULE

March 30th - April 5th

Monday, March 30th

- 7 a.m. C. Begley & C. Begley
9 a.m. C. Holm & T. Mangione
12 Noon N. Inglese & P. Inglese

Tuesday, March 31st

- 7 a.m. A. Benja-Athon & P. Denihan
9 a.m. A. Kearns & E. Kearns
12 Noon C. Keating & I. Salas-Allende

Wednesday, April 1st

- 7 a.m. W. Charbonneau & E. Lennon
9 a.m. P. Klimuszkzo & H. Mulholland

Thursday, April 2nd

- 7 a.m. C. Connors & D. Nicosia
9 a.m. N. LaBruna & E. Sears
12 Noon C. Malhame & M. Torpe

Friday, April 3rd

- 7 a.m. N. Cordi & L. Merola
9 a.m. E. Scaring, S. Scaring, A. Torpe & T. Hannon
12 Noon J. Marino & T. Sanseverino

Saturday, April 4th

- 8 a.m. C. Sheehan & S. Stanchio
5 p.m. C. Begley, C. Begley, W. Charbonneau & E. Lennon

Sunday, April 5th

- 7:30 a.m. R. Borek, D. Stevenson, M. Broderick & B. Gallagher
9:00 a.m. M. Cain, F. Minieri, E. Bunger & L. Tumanelli
10:30 a.m. V. Caliendo, D. DeLucia, A. Cannatella, & A. Stack
12:00 noon J. Berestecki, L. Chan, K. Coccarelli & B. Pilch
5:00 p.m. C. Connors & D. Nicosia, V. deVenoge & C. Gentile

Please be sure to arrange for a replacement if you cannot make your assignment.



SPECIAL THANKS to Fr. Peter LeJacq, Maryknoll priest and medical doctor, who spoke so eloquently to our youth last Sunday night. He is a marvelous source of wisdom and inspiration to all of us.

Youth group meets tonight, March 29th in the Marian Room immediately following the 5:00 PM Mass.

Sign ups and planning for **The Living Stations of the Cross** and the **Easter Egg Hunt** will take place at the beginning of the meeting.



SAVE THE DATE

Rosary Society's Annual Communion Brunch

Sunday, April 26th
Manhasset Bay Yacht Club

Details to follow



Looking for a quality education?

**Consider Saint Mary's Elementary School
Seats still available in K & 1 for Fall 2009**



While other schools are forced to make budget cuts, St. Mary's continues to offer a first class education, including foreign language instruction, fine arts, Smart Boards in every classroom, and an extensive extra curricular program.

Join us for a personal tour of our safe, nurturing, state-of-the-art facility dedicated to excellence in Catholic education and personal development.

Celeste M. Checchia, Ph.D., Principal
516-627-0184 8 www.stmary10030.org



Albany Bill Targets Catholic Church-- Questions and Answers

Question: What are these bills and what do they do?

They are Assembly Bill A.2596, sponsored by Assembly Member Margaret Markey and Senate Bill S.2568, sponsored by Senator Thomas Duane. By lifting for one year the statute of limitations on bringing lawsuits in sex-abuse-related cases, these bills would allow people who say they were victims of sexual abuse many years ago to bring such lawsuits to court, no matter how long ago the supposed abuse occurred.

Question: What are statutes of limitations and what purpose do they serve?

Statutes of limitations refer to a period of time in which civil or criminal proceedings can be brought to court against an individual or institution accused of wrongdoing. They exist for virtually all civil and criminal proceedings and were designed to ensure justice and fairness in court proceedings by assuring prompt and timely hearing of evidence and administration of justice.

Question: How would these bills harm the Church?

Under these bills, persons could bring lawsuits against the Catholic Church, its Dioceses, its clergy and its parishes for abuse that may have taken place 60 years ago or more. They could bring these suits even though they may have never reported the abuse at any time previously over those decades and even if the accused and those who have knowledge of the facts are all long dead. A credible determination of the truth will be impossible in such circumstances. Emotion rather than evidence is likely to determine the outcome of such cases. This type of bill was passed in California. As a result, several hundred people came forward and made claims based on events that were said to have occurred many years ago. Faced with the prospect of emotional juries evaluating cases made impossible to defend by the passage of time, the dioceses were forced into a position of entering group settlements of all cases rather than risk losing some cases with potential multimillion dollar judgments. Group settlements included even those cases that may have had little or no merit. The cost was nearly a billion dollars with plaintiffs' attorneys taking close to half of the total awarded to those who claimed abuse. Under New York law, trial attorneys here (who are major supporters of the bills) would see the same windfall.

Question: But doesn't the Church support helping people abused by clergy as minors?

The Church wishes to see victims of sexual abuse receive help, but without injustice being done to the Catholic people. The Catholic Church has become a leader in efforts to reach out to victims of past abuse with assistance and to prevent future instances of sexual abuse.

Question: How is this legislation "unjust" to Catholics?

There are several ways: One is by ignoring the fundamental principles of fairness embodied in statutes of limitations, it puts in jeopardy Church resources, whose source is the contributions of the Catholic people. These contributions were, and are made to support churches, schools, faith formation and social service ministries and the many other good works from which so many people benefit. Under this law, cases would be brought by attorneys who view these resources as equivalent to the assets of a company whose purpose is to make a profit for itself and its shareholders. This disrespects both the Catholic faithful, whose sacrifices have made the Church's ministries possible and those who may be deprived of services that the Church may no longer be able to provide. Another way is that it treats the Catholic faithful as responsible for abuse that they did not know about, did not condone and which may have occurred before they were even born. An additional way in which this legislation is unfair is that, after the California experience, many of its supporters are prepared to take advantage of this one-year window in the statute of limitations specifically for the purpose of bringing suits against the Church.

Question: Are there any other ways in which these bills are unfair?

This legislation also fails to deal in an equivalent way with the situation of children who were victims of abuse by public institutions (such as public schools) even only a few years ago. Because of different laws governing lawsuits against public institutions, victims of abuse through the neglect of public institutions would not benefit



by the one-year lifting of the statute of limitations. That's because anyone suing a public school or municipality must file a notice with the public entity within 90 days of the incident indicating intent to bring a suit. This "notice of claim" provision would not be affected by a change in the statute of limitations. In California, victims of public school abuse who sought the right to sue were turned away, even though they represent potentially one of the largest classes of sex abuse victims. This would be the case in New York as well.

Question: What has the Catholic Church done about this misconduct by clergy?

The sexual abuse of children is a heinous crime in Church law as well as civil law. It is true that in the past, a small number of Catholic priests have been guilty of this evil which gravely contradicts the purpose of their vocation. This is why in 2002 the U.S. Bishops agreed to remove from ministry every ordained clergy member who has been found to have committed this type of sexual abuse. It is also why the Catholic Church has become a leader in efforts to reach out to victims of past abuse with assistance and to prevent future instances of sexual abuse especially by anyone who serves in our Churches and ministries. Sadly, sexual abuse occurs everywhere, and society must root out the abusers and punish them to the fullest extent of the law. The most common place for sexual abuse is in the home. Outside the home, public schools are a frequent place where children encounter abuse. A recent report by the Associated Press revealed that in New York State and across the country, the number of children abused by public school employees, such as teachers, far exceeds the number of children abused by Catholic priests. Most cases of sexual abuse by Catholic clergy are in the past. Concentration on abuse by clergy actually constitutes a potentially dangerous distraction from current abuse in other institutions, especially public ones. The Markey and Duane bills do nothing to protect children today from abuse. Nor do they help victims of past abuse. Principal beneficiaries will be trial lawyers.

Question: What should be done?

The Church fully supports:

- extending criminal and civil statutes of limitations going forward
- increased criminal penalties for those who abuse children
- measures to mandate sexual abuse prevention programs in every public and private institution that works with children
- mandatory reporting by clergy members and others of those suspected of committing abuse
- An alternative to the Markey and Duane bills was introduced in the Legislature by Assembly Member Vito Lopez (CD-Brooklyn) and Sen. Carl Kruger (CD-Brooklyn) that would extend the statutes of limitations prospectively and, importantly, would amend the notice of claim requirement, leveling the playing field for all victims, so that those abused in public institutions would have the same rights as those abused in private institutions. This bill is fairer in its approach than the Markey and Duane bills. However, the Lopez bill was removed from the calendar after a preliminary vote in the Codes Committee of 8 in favor to 11 against. We believe the Lopez bill with some modifications is still viable legislation and could be reintroduced to the Assembly Codes Committee sometime in the future.

Question: What can I do to make my voice heard in these bills?

Please call your local legislators and Governor Paterson to reject these terribly misguided and unjust bills, A.2596/ S.2568. You can become an effective voice on this and other important legislation by logging on to www.nyscatholic.org, clicking onto "Join the Network" and becoming part of the Catholic Advocacy Network.

Question: Where can I find out additional information on this issue?

- Diocese of Rockville Centre website: www.drvc.org
- New York State Catholic Conference website: www.nyscatholic.org
- The Long Island Catholic newspaper provides updates on this bill



The **Manhasset Community Fund** is planning a fun-filled evening of tastings and demonstrations by local top chefs and wine consultants in the beautiful Hampton Appliance Showroom, 750 Stewart Ave., in Garden City.

Saturday evening, April 25th, 2009 - 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Proceeds from THIS EVENT will go to the many agencies serving Manhasset residents. \$75.00 per person. Watch for more details to follow.

Inquiries: John Starck, Tel. 516-869-8585 Ext. 301 or e-mail: *John @showcasekitchensny.com*.
Michele Tempesta, Tel. 516-627-0644 or E-mail: *Temteach@gmail.com*.

Send: Name, Address, Phone Number and Check payable to : Manhasset Community Fund
c/o John Starck, SHOWCASE KITCHENS, 1200 Northern Blvd., Manhasset, NY 11030