



Catholic Church Community of

# St. Thomas More

115 Kings Highway, Hauppauge, NY 11788-4221

September 6, 2020

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



### Parish Mission Statement:

*St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church is a parish community striving to share the Spirit of Love through Prayer, Worship, the Sacraments, the Teachings of the Church, and our concern for others through Christian Stewardship.*

### Contact Numbers

Rectory	Religious Ed	Outreach
631-234-5551	631-234-0397	631-234-3149
FAX 631-234-6412	FAX 631-234-1199	FAX 631-234-1199

**Website:** <https://stmli.org>

### Social Media

Facebook: StThomasMoreHauppauge  
Instagram: stm\_church

To receive texts or emails  
from us just text

**Spiritoflove** to 84576 or  
sign up @

[StThomasMore29.flocknote.com](https://StThomasMore29.flocknote.com)

## ***Masses for this coming week***

September 6, 2020  
 Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 Ezekiel 33: 7-9  
 Psalm: 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9  
 Romans 13: 8-10  
 Matthew 18: 15-20

### **Saturday, September 5**

#### ***(Anticipated Mass for Sunday)***

5pm Nicholas G. Stathakis *by Kathleen Rudy*

### **Sunday, September 6—Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:30am Joseph Hauk *by his wife & family*  
 12:00pm Robert Cusick *by Elizabeth Kane;*  
 Mae Devine *by St. Thomas More Cleaning Teams*

### **Monday, September 7**

9am Dolores Gordon *by Kathy Chin & family*

### **Tuesday, September 8—The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

9am Mae Devine *by Maria Rotolico & Nana Dowse*

### **Wednesday, September 9—St. Peter Claver**

9am Frank Sesti *by the Sesti family*

### **Thursday, September 10**

9am Jason McNamee *by The Big House*

### **Friday, September 11**

9am People of the Parish

### **Saturday, September 12**

9am Frank dePrizio *by Phyllis Pasquino*

#### ***(Anticipated Mass for Sunday)***

5pm Rosemarie Migliara *by Bruce & Joan Cameron*

### **Sunday, September 13—Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:30am Priscilla McAllister & Mae McNerney *by Ed & Judy;*

Mickelson & Williams families *by Barbara Mickelson*

12:00pm Daniel Powers *by Marilyn Miller;*  
 Susan Wilcox & Susan Barr *by the Barr family*

## ***Growing through the Sunday Scriptures***

September 13, 2020  
 Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 Sirach 27: 30—28:7  
 Psalm: 103: 1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12  
 Romans 14: 7-9  
 Matthew 18: 21-35

A reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew:

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.' Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.' Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt. Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."

## ***FR. ANTONY'S LETTER***

Dear Friends,

**“There are two kinds of people who never amount to much:** those who cannot do what they are told, and those who can do nothing more than what they are told.” This saying explains people in two extreme categories. But most of us are neither boorish brats who cannot listen to anyone, nor robots who can do only what is commanded.

**Today’s Gospel explains that each of us is created** with a special and unique gift, i.e. the gift of loving. Love is a gift because it is freely and unconditionally given to us from others and must be freely and unconditionally offered to others by us. Love is unique because in loving, we would become neither brats nor robots but would become unique lovers and special in the eyes of the beloved.

**As much as we can be the lovers or beloveds,** we, in our weak moments can also hurt or sin against others. In such a sinful/hurtful situation Jesus instructs us to repair the damage in three levels: first, try to repair personally between offender and the offended; if this does not work, secondly, try to solve it in the presence of two or three witnesses; if this also does not help, thirdly try to reconcile them with the help of the Church. When none of the three could repair the damage, Jesus allows the offender to go back to square one where he was before becoming a lover or the beloved in the Church. That person is put away from the community not as an enemy but to give a chance to start again a journey to be a lover in the Church.

**The aim of the community that ‘believes in Jesus’** is not simply to judge and label who is sinner or saint, but to come together in the name of Jesus and to experience Jesus in their midst. “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Our focus in being a Christian community is on Jesus. As a community each of us has our own habits, traditions and convenient philosophy which are only starting points to form a community in order to experience Jesus among us. We are individuals with our idiosyncrasies but we are in need of each other living in community. Jesus calls together as community not to condemn and excommunicate each other. As a community of believers in Jesus let us try to understand each other in order to grow back in love. When we love each other, Christ becomes the divine reality among us to enliven and empower us in unity and prosperity.

**Families are registering their children for Religious Education** strengthening their faith formation. In a regular year by this time over 80 first grade children would have been registered for our First Communion Program. In this pandemic year we have only 28 children registered so far. Complying with all the health precaution regulations, we have taken various necessary steps in forming the children both in the context of regular class or virtual class or home schooling type of classes, etc. Please call the Religious Education as to how we can help your children. Let us all grow together in health and faith; let us help our children to grow with us.

With love and prayers,  
Fr. Antony



### Focus on Religious Freedom

[www.cffor.org](http://www.cffor.org)

## Do Children Have First Amendment Rights in Public Schools? *Part 2*

Yes! "In every case defending students' rights to pray, the students have prevailed. Even teachers have the right to pray in school," said Brad Dacus, President of Pacific Justice Institute. <sup>(1)</sup>

"The First Amendment does not require students to leave their religion at the schoolhouse door. If students can wear T-shirts advertising sports teams or rock groups, they can also wear T-shirts that promote religion...", said President Bill Clinton in 1995. "Nothing in the First Amendment converts our public schools into religion-free zones..." <sup>(2)</sup>

Pres. Clinton directed the Dept. of Education to develop a set of guidelines entitled *Religious Expression in Public Schools* to be sent to every superintendent in the country with the purpose of ending confusion regarding students' rights to live their faith.

It's important that students, parents, teachers, and administrators know these rights:

- \* Students may read their Bible or other scriptures & say grace before meals.
- \* Students may express their beliefs about religion in homework, art or written work.
- \* Students may organize prayer groups and religious clubs before & after school.
- \* Students may engage in individual & group prayer and religious discussion
- \* Schools may teach about religion but may not provide religious instruction.

On Religious Freedom Day, January 16, 2020, President Trump reiterated these rights by updating the guidelines and approving plans to streamline and mandate a federal complaint process that students can use to alert authorities when they've been discriminated against. "We will not let anyone push God from the public square... We call this the right to pray... There is nothing more important than that I would say." <sup>(3)</sup>

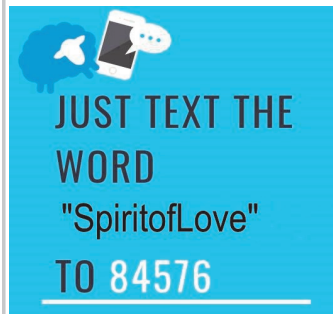
"Too many misinterpret a separation of church & state as an invitation to separate people from their faith," said Education Secretary DeVos. "In reality our Constitution doesn't exist to protect us from religion, it exists to protect religion from government." <sup>(4)</sup>

(legaltoprayer.com,(1)(2); AmericanMinute.com(3); thought.com,3/29/19; [info@cffor.org](mailto:info@cffor.org); npr.org, 1/16/20; abcnews.go.com, 1/17/20(3)(4)

## Be Silent No More!

*"We have become certain of two things: religious freedom is under attack, and we will not cease our struggle to protect it."* - Cardinal Timothy Dolan, 2012

Elected officials and their staff listen to, read and tabulate citizens' concerns and opinions when making decisions for their state and for the country. Do not be silent. Please contact one or more Senator or Congressman each week to encourage them to share your values. **Call** Switchboard at 202-224-3121 to be connected to any Representative or Senator's office. **Email:** Find Representative's email at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) Find Senator's email at [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)



Would you like to receive a daily spiritual reflection during Lent or updates of what's happening in our Parish? See below or go to

**[StThomasMore29.flocknote.com](http://StThomasMore29.flocknote.com)**

**PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY**

Ethan Bernstein	Dylan Kowalski
Jessie Bernstein	Thomas LaFemina
Joseph Blaugrund	Alex Lombardi
Anthony Broncatello	Andrew Lombardi
John Burk	Lt. Clint Lorance
Collin Busto	Scott Lovelock
David Chester	Andrew Lynch
John Chester	Troy A. Maida,
Nicholas Chester	William Maley
Theresa Chester	Thomas Migliara
Collin J. Crean	Tim Morris
Eddie Cullum	Ryan Murphy
Eric Cullum	John Nachtman
Adam Cussen	Kaitlyn Nachtman
David Cussen	Thomas Nichols
Capt. Sean Michael Dolan	Adam Papaizai
P. J. Erskin	Michael Poist
Timothy Fallon	Michael Polanski
Major Michael Fantauzzi	Kyle Rathje
J.T. Foltz	Antonia Marie Rivera
Mike Foltz	Ann Karen Sanchez
Michael Gioia	Justin Schneider
Carl F. Greiner	Christopher Sidor
Philip Gudone	Christopher Singer
John Michael Haffner	Ryan Smith
Sean Hendrikson	Michael White
Tylor J. Hickey	
Kevin Ilyichenko	
John Karies	
Michael Knipper	

**CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL  
2020**

as of September 1, 2020

Our Parish Goal	\$70,400.00
Pledges to date	\$33,547.00
Percentage of Goal	47.65%

**Courtesy Announcements:**

*First Notice:*

*Second Notice:*

**St. Mary's East Islip**—The pandemic of 2020 resulted in a great many challenges; most especially, the unexpected death of a loved one. We are offering a special focus support group for adults who have endured this specific loss and are struggling to rebuild their lives within the current societal framework.

There will also be a second adult bereavement support group offered not related to COVID-19 for anyone who has lost a loved one.

Both groups will begin on Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. There is no cost to attend the groups, but pre-registration is required.

In order to participate in this program, the death must have occurred prior to June 17th, 2020.

If interested, please call (631) 581-4266, x-125.

Please note that all participants must wear a mask while in the group and we will be as socially distanced as possible.

**Good Shepherd Hospice Bereavement Services** are opened to anyone in the community who has experienced a loss through death at no charge.

Upcoming Bereavement Support Groups, led by a Bereavement Specialist, include:

Virtual Spousal/Partner Loss Bereavement Support Group

September 15 thru November 3 / 5:00PM-6:30PM

Registration Required: Roger Sullivan, LCSW @ (631) 465-6332 / [roger.sullivan@chsli.org](mailto:roger.sullivan@chsli.org)

Virtual Bereavement Support Group for COVID Related Loss

September 15 thru November 3 / 6:45PM-8:00PM

Registration Required: Roger Sullivan, LCSW @ (631) 465-6332 / [roger.sullivan@chsli.org](mailto:roger.sullivan@chsli.org)



## ***SUPPORT COLLECTION***

Envelope users: Please enter the amount of your donation in the space provided on the envelope. This will greatly help us when counting the collection and for recording your contribution.

St. Thomas More Parish needs your support now more than ever! Join the parishioners who are using Faith Direct for automated giving to St. Thomas More Parish. Faith Direct offers a safe and secure way to donate to our parish in this time of uncertainty. There is no cost to you, and the program provides a great benefit to our parish. Sign up today by visiting [faith.direct/NY227](https://faith.direct/NY227), or text 'Enroll' to 631-250-8141. You can also make a one-time gift by texting a dollar amount to the same number.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

God Bless You,  
Fr. Antony

## ***SOCIAL MEDIA & EMAIL***

### **Websites**

[www.stmli.org](http://www.stmli.org)

<https://stmlyouth.wixsite.com/stmyouthhauppauge>

### **Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/StThomasMoreHauppauge/>

### **Instagram**

- stm\_church
- stmreligioused
- stm\_yg

### **Email**

Rectory: [rectory@stmli.org](mailto:rectory@stmli.org)  
 Mary Ellen Carroll: [mecarroll@optonline.net](mailto:mecarroll@optonline.net)  
 Outreach: [outreach@stmli.org](mailto:outreach@stmli.org)  
 Dan Haggerty: [youthminister@stmli.org](mailto:youthminister@stmli.org)  
 Altar Servers Ministry: [altarservers@stmli.org](mailto:altarservers@stmli.org)  
 Personal Prayer: [SpiritualOrientations.com](http://SpiritualOrientations.com)  
 To contact a member of the Pastoral Council use the following  
 Barbara & Joe Fratamico at [BJFRAT@optonline.net](mailto:BJFRAT@optonline.net)

## **RCIA NEOPHYTES**

Blessings and congratulations to our neophytes (newly initiated) who were fully initiated into the Catholic Church. Please welcome our new brothers and sisters; Anthony Vigo, Rick Vigo, Ping Fennekohl, Cynthia Leon, Nina Leon, Marissa Abram, Eric Abram, and Aidan Lapore. We thank them for enriching our parish with their love, goodness, and faith fullness. The RCIA Team wants to thank all members of Saint Thomas More for sharing the spirit of love with our neophytes throughout their extended journey.

**RCIA people who received sacraments plus team members**



## ***CIRCLE OF WOMEN***

It is the mission of the Circle of Women Book Group to focus on the spiritual influence of contemporary writing that facilitates our own reflections of God's action in our daily lives.

Our next meeting will be on September 14, 2020. The book for discussion will be **Circling the Sun** by Paula McLain—Facilitator Marti White.

We meet on the second Monday of the month. For further info. and/or to register, call Marilyn at 631-234-5805 or Joan at 631-234-1739.

## ***Congratulations!***

## ***Calendar Club Winners***

*Here are the winners from August 30-Sept. 5, 2020*

8/30/2020	515	\$50	Donna Fortmeyer
8/31/2020	953	\$25	Ellie Stout
9/ 1/2020	943	\$25	Veronica Young
9/ 2/2020	309	\$25	Carole Holtje
9/ 3/2020	298	\$25	Kathleen Watral
9/ 4/2020	351	\$25	Zachary Weiner
9/ 5/2020	25	\$25	Ann & Mike Gavigan



\*  
Weather permitting.



## PRAY FOR THE SICK

Jaclyn Aloï, ASB, Brian B, Louise Beltrani, Pamela Brosnan, Erin Burke, Kathy Capuano, Paul Connors, Veronica Corvasce, Ginny Desierio, Diane DiChristina, Walt Drechsler Jr., Sr. Alexius Fitzgerald, Michael Fiorentino, Rosemarie Flore, Marilyn Gast, Gail, Laurie Holmes, Richard Kane, Kevin Kenney, Phyllis Markowitz, Jean Marsala Kieffner, Lauren Lossani, Robert McGurrin, Sharon Mills, Melissa Mock, Joan Nachtman, Mary Ann O'Gara, Al Pankus, Rita Platia, Maura Reddy, Rosalie Rocchio, Joyce Rose, Jerry Smith, Howard Spegman, Peggy Stepanek, Richard Tulipan, Chase Turano, Andrew J. Valentine, Andrew M. Valentine, Rosalind Warmuth, Diane Weisz, Janet Weil, Don Wieman, Pat Yezek, Ashley Zabelsky, Denise Zappia

*This listing will expire on September 30, 2020.*



During these difficult times, as a family of faith, we turn to our Heavenly Father in prayer. You are invited to submit your prayer intentions and those of your family. All prayer intentions will be placed in a basket near the altar in St Thomas More before each Mass. We are streaming Sunday Mass on Saturday at 5pm at [www.stmli.org](http://www.stmli.org). Daily mass is posted Monday through Friday on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com). The basket will serve as a silent reminder that we are united in faith, hope and love as we lift one another up in prayer and support, while placing our trust in the Lord.

*“For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.”*

*St. Therese of Lisieux*

## PRAY FOR THE DECEASED

James McNamee, Mary Moran, for all those who have succumbed to COVID-19, our deceased loved ones and our deceased service men and women.

### **USING FAITH DIRECT?** - It's quick and easy!

Consider having automatic deductions from either your checking or savings or use a credit card to support St. Thomas More each week. With Faith Direct, there is no fee to you! Please visit the Faith Direct website at [www.FaithDirect.net](http://www.FaithDirect.net) to sign up: our church code is **NY227**. You may also use the form located where you obtain the bulletin or text the word ENROLL to 631-250-8141. We thank you for your support.

**UPDATING CREDIT CARD INFORMATION**—If you get a new card or a renewal card, make sure that this information is communicated to Faith Direct.

**CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES**—If you do not receive weekly envelopes and would like them mailed to you, please use the cut out that is in the bulletin and indicate that you wish to receive them on a regular basis. Usually it takes about two weeks for your request to be completed.

### **MAINTENANCE COLLECTION**

We thank you for your support of our parish project to maintain our parish facilities. If you would like to help, please use a maintenance envelope where you obtain the bulletin.

**CEREAL BOX TOP COUPONS**—Drop them off in the Church lobby drop-off box and we will use them to buy things for the students in our regional school.

**USED CELL PHONES**—We thank everyone for giving us their old cell phones. We forward them to a convent that recycles them and uses the proceeds for the poor.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**—You can check online for any updates at <http://calendar.yahoo.com/stmreled>.



**St. Thomas More Parish Social Ministry  
OUTREACH**



**“Give us this day our daily bread”**

Our current needs include:

**Pancake Mix\*\***

**Syrup\*\***

**Boxed Milk\*\***

**Jelly\*\***

**Canned Tomatoes (28 oz)\*\***

**Paper Towels\*\***

Bread

Pasta

Spaghetti

Tomato Sauce

Tuna

Macaroni & Cheese

**Canned Fruit\*\***

**Peanut Butter (smaller jars)\*\***

**Rice\*\***

**Canned Vegetables\*\***

**Apple Juice\*\***

Coffee (1 pound cans/bags)

Tea Bags

Mustard/Ketchup

Soup (18-22 oz)

Shampoo

Toothpaste

**\*\*We are especially in need of these items**

***Our neighbors continue to need food. Please help if you can!***

Non-perishable foods may be left in the bins at the entrance to the Narthex. **Please check the Expiration date before donating.**

We are always grateful for your generosity!

**Outreach is now open Monday and Thursday 10 AM to 1 PM**

**Phone: 631-234-3149**

*Thank you to everyone who contributed to our school supply drive. Your generosity made it possible for us to help more than 25 families and almost 70 children with supplies for the new school year!*

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

In today's Gospel, Jesus says ".....where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we help them to know that indeed "God is in the midst of them."

***PRAYING FOR THE SICK  
— Adding a name Request —***

**PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING TO  
THE PARISH LISTING OF THOSE WHO  
ARE ILL:**

**Name of person (s) who is (are) ill:**  
Relationship to the person who is ill:

Person making the Request:  
TODAY'S DATE:

*(Please place in collection basket or drop off  
at Church Office)*

***CHURCH MINISTRIES***

**THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A  
LITURGICAL MINISTER OR WANT TO  
SHARE YOUR TALENTS?**

Please complete the following form:  
I would like to volunteer in the following parish ministry:

- ( ) Altar Server                      ( ) Hospitality  
( ) Usher                              ( ) Greeter  
( ) RCIA                                ( ) Liturgy with Children  
( ) Lector                              ( ) Eucharistic Minister  
( ) Consolation Minister        ( ) Landscaping/  
Planting  
( ) Rosary Altar Society        ( ) Pre-Cana  
( ) Caring for Altar Plants      ( ) FOCCUS  
  
( ) Adult Lending Library        ( ) Banner Committee

Name::

Address:

Phone:

*Please return to the Rectory for processing.*

***REGISTRATION and/or  
ENVELOPE REQUEST***

NAME(s):

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

E-MAIL:

( ) I/we would like to register in the parish.

( ) Please send contribution envelopes.

( ) I am already registered in the parish but do not receive contribution envelopes. I would like to receive them.

( ) Other \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please return in collection or return to Church Office)*

*Please return to the Rectory for further processing.*

# St Thomas More

## Religious Education News

We are in the process of registering new and returning students in Religious Education. If you have or know of a child in grades 1-8 who would like to be enrolled in the Religious Education Program this year, please contact us at 631 234-0397 or [reled@stmli.org](mailto:reled@stmli.org) and we will be glad to assist you.

Because of the pandemic Religious Education will look different this year. Beginning the second week of September small classes will meet outside. Catechists and children will wear masks and maintain the correct social distance. We will continue outdoor classes as long as it is safe to do so and the weather permits. After that we will switch to online learning.



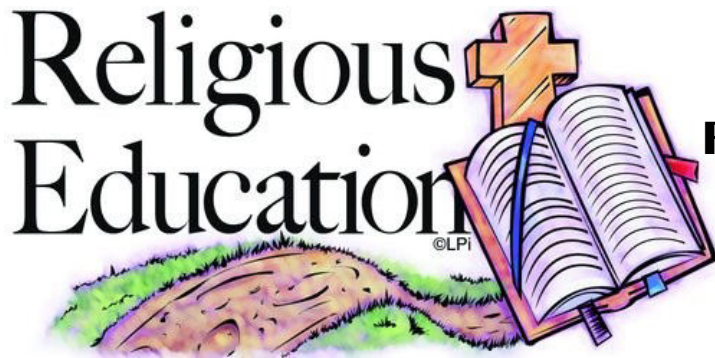
We anticipate that we will be able to celebrate First Communions and Confirmation later next spring or early summer as we did this past July when we celebrated the sacraments in smaller groups following Diocesan guidelines.

Please pray for the children, their families and catechists as they continue on their journey of faith.



## Confirmation 2020





**St Thomas More**  
**Religious Education Registration**  
**2020/2021 School Year**  
**— Sharing the Spirit of Love —**

Registration  
information



For families with a child entering First Grade or are new to the parish—  
Please call 631-234-0397 so we may mail you the forms for registration.

It is required that we have your child's baptism certificate on file  
if they were baptized in another parish.

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We will mail the re-registration materials home to families whose children  
are already in our program.

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Online registration is available to families who are already in the program

Just follow this link

**<https://membership.faithdirect.net/events/details/4843>**





**2020 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL**  
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Labor Day is an opportunity to take stock of the way's workers are honored and respected. As Pope Francis pointed out, *"Work is fundamental to the dignity of a person. . . It gives one the ability to maintain oneself, one's family, to contribute to the growth of one's own nation."*



For many people today, especially the poor, or those who may be unemployed or underemployed, the struggle to support their families is a daily battle. Please consider supporting the Catholic Ministries Appeal which supports the programs and services that assist families and individuals struggling in our communities.

**PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A GIFT TO THE 2020 Catholic Ministries Appeal! Every Gift Makes a Difference in the Lives of Others.**

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge	\$ _____
Down Payment	\$ _____
Balance	\$ _____

Catholic Ministries Appeal, Diocese of Rockville Centre, P.O. Box 4000, Rockville Centre, New York 11571

To make a donation, you can also visit  
<https://www.drvc.org/CMA>  
 or call us at 516-678-5800 ext. 296.

**THANK YOU!**