

# The Correspondent

Monthly Newsletter / March 2026

## WEEKLY CHURCH SERVICES\*

Wednesdays: 11 am (Chapel)  
 Saturdays: 5 pm (Church - live streaming on Facebook)  
 Sundays: 8 am (Church)  
 10 am (Church - live streaming on Facebook)

## WEEKLY CAMPUS SCHEDULE\*

**Grief Group:** Following Wednesday Service  
**Food Pantry:** Mondays & Wednesdays 10-12  
**Thrift Shop:** Wednesdays, Thursdays,  
 Saturdays 10 am-2 pm  
**AA meetings:** Mondays 7 pm  
 Thursdays 10 am & 7 pm  
 Sundays 7:30 pm  
**Choir Practice** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 1 pm  
 All other Tuesdays 6:45 pm  
**Men's Group** Tuesdays 8 am Breakfast

## MONTHLY SCHEDULE\*

**Family Service** First Sunday (Oct-June)  
**Senior Lunch** March 10th  
**Vestry Meeting** Second Monday  
**Pizza Supper** Third Saturday

\*check our website for details, changes, and updates [www.saint-anns.org](http://www.saint-anns.org)

## Saint Ann's Vestry

### **Wardens**

Randy Schultz (2027)  
 Roma Busch (2028)

### **Members**

Ray Busch (2028)  
 Joe Castelli (2027)  
 Laurin Clemens (2028)  
 Kaitlyn Crevoiserat (2029)  
 Don Hester (2029)  
 Joan Siedlecki (2029)  
 Rich Maddox (2027)  
 Carol Ann St. Lawrence (2027)  
 Laura Sanchez (2029)

Linda Maddox, clerk of the Vestry

## **Important Dates:**

Mar. 4 Lenten Soup Supper 6 pm (see page 14)  
 Mar. 10 Senior Luncheon – please bring a donation to the food pantry  
 Mar. 11 Lenten Soup Supper 6 pm (see page 14)  
 Mar. 15 Mulvihill-Lynch School of Irish Dance 11:15 am  
 Mar. 18 Lenten Soup Supper 6 pm, with Presentation by  
 Thomas Petriano, Ph.D (see page 14)  
 Mar. 29 Palm Sunday  
 Mar. 31 Sharktank Showdown (see page 11)  
 April 5 Easter Sunday

## **HOLY WEEK with the GREAT SOUTH BAY DEANERY**

### **Maundy Thursday**

Saint Andrew's, Yaphank, Agape Meal 6PM and Service 7PM

### **Good Friday**

Saint Ann's, The Stations of the Cross in the Saint Ann's Cemetery  
 Led by the Daughters of the King in the Garden of the Unforgotten  
 11AM

Saint Ann's, Monolingual Service 12PM

Saint Paul's, Patchogue, Bilingual Service 7PM

### **Holy Saturday**

Saint Ann's, Morning Prayer with the Altar Guild, in the Saint  
 Barnabas Chapel, 9:15AM

### **The Great Easter Vigil**

Saint James' Brookhaven, 5PM



First Intentional Communion 2/15/26

SAINT ANN'S OFFICE

251 Middle Road  
Sayville NY 11782  
Email: office@saint-anns.org  
Web: www.saint-anns.org  
Pho: 631-589-6522  
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Mon-Wed 9:00 am – 3 pm  
**Lynne Robinson**  
Parish Administrator  
**Marge Rogers**  
Office volunteer

CLERGY

The Reverend Dr. Benjamin Brenkert  
**Father Ben**  
Rector Elect  
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929-445-3781  
The Reverend Deacon Susan Ellinghaus  
**Deacon Susan**  
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THE CORRESPONDENT

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**Eileen Moran, Editor**  
**Sue Schultz, Roving Reporter**

FOOD PANTRY

257 Middle Road  
Fr. Jae Chung Parish Hall  
Sayville NY 11782  
Interim Pantry Coordinator:  
**Sal Greci**  
office@saint-anns.org  
631-589-6522  
Open Monday & Wednesday  
10 am - noon

THRIFT SHOP

268 Middle Road  
Sayville NY 11782  
Shop Co-Managers:  
**Cindy Reisert**  
**Linda Maddox**  
office@saint-anns.org  
631-589-6220  
Open Wednesday, Thursday, &  
Saturday 10 am – 2 pm

CEMETERY

*The Garden of the Unforgotten*  
251 Middle Road  
Sayville NY 11782  
Cemetery Manager:  
**Tim Laffin**  
cemetery@saint-anns.org  
631-589-6522  
Open 7 am - sundown

SAINT ANN'S STAFF-MEMBERS\*

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## Companions-in-Christ: A Word from the Rector Elect



Dear Saint Ann's and Fire Island Ministries Family and Friends,

P.C. As we companion each other in Lent and head towards Easter, I pray your Lenten journey is inspired by the joy and the growth of both your personal prayer and your participation in our common prayer at our Services. Ask for the grace: How can I become a contemplative in action? If you or someone you know are interested in being Confirmed or Received this year, please contact me to join our formation class. This year we will join with our family and friends throughout the Great South Bay Deanery in the celebrations and liturgies of Holy Week. Note Bene: God willing and the people consenting, Deacon Bob will be ordained a priest with his classmates on June 13<sup>th</sup>, at the Cathedral of the

Incarnation in Garden City. Save the date! Did you know that Saint Ann's has over 100 active volunteers. We are blessed.

Recently, I spent some time learning about the Anglican communion's new Archbishop, Rev. Sarah Mullaly. The Episcopal Diocese of Washington notes, "Archbishop Mullaly grew up in a churchgoing family in the London suburbs, and her first career was as an oncology nurse. At the age of 37, she became Chief Nursing Officer for Britain's National Health Service, and she was awarded an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.) for her distinguished service to nursing. Her professional background, many say, has made her an unusually gifted administrator, and she is seen as a caring person and a good listener. She and her husband, Eamonn, have two children. I want to share some of her words with you, which will lead us into our celebration of the sacred mysteries of Easter and the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ."

In 2021 Archbishop Mullaly wrote in the Anglican Blog ViaMedia, about the victimization and terror threatening LGBTQ+ people by people describing themselves as Christian. How apropos given the current administrations removal of the LGBTQ+ Pride Flag from Stonewall in New York City. Her article is titled, *LGBT Stories: 'Texts of Terror' – Are We Helping or Harming?* She captures in Jesus, the ultimate victim, the way to live truthfully; she quotes the Gospel of Luke, "We are called to be people of the light, not of the darkness." To choose light, means choosing Jesus, a choice that means that we can become people who live non-judgmentally, compassionately, openly and transparently. Jesus said, 'Therefore, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be proclaimed from the housetops.' (Luke 12:3) Mullaly is known to have paraphrased the great African Proverb, "If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to far, go together." Remember our adage, Saint Ann's Strong. Sayville/Fire Island Ministries/Bayport BluePoint Stronger. Together Strongest. You might recall the Ignatian Meditation on the Two Standards from my recent homily/sermon.

In the same article in ViaMedia, Archbishop Mullaly provided an admonishment: "Secrecy, of itself, should ring warning bells. Why do we keep secrets? What are we afraid of? What does it say about the community of which I am a part? And why do we succumb to behaviors that demand secrecy? Does secrecy point to a desire to 'control'?, a control that holds up a mirror to our lack of faith in a God who is actively present in the life of every believer. Our God accepts, loves and seeks to save every one of us. Our God has promised, by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, to transform each one of us from one degree of glory to another – a glory that is perfectly embodied in Jesus, a glory full of grace and truth."

Archbishop Mullaly says that in our current world order, "stories of terror against LGBTQ+ people, the foreigner, the newcomer to any church or community call upon us to pray for the grace of greater faith – a faith that releases us to be compassionate not coercive, open not secretive, helping not harming, kind and full of gratitude, transcending gossip or negative group think, entrusting those in our care to God who is already at

work in us, God who, with our cooperation, will bring us to spiritual completion.” That’s a consolation we should all pray for the grace to receive.

She concludes: together we can enact the beloved community. This is why Archbishop Mullally--though heavily criticized by detractors and insurgents for being an agent of change merely because of her gender as a woman--is a wonderful exemplum of Christian living - a woman who lives the Gospel, which helps her to integrate her own brokenness. Our Anglican communion turns to Mullaly, hoping to emulate her Christ-like example of healing, compassion, grace, prayer and love.

My friends, Archbishop Mullaly’s invitation exhorts us to move from "control" to "faith", her message is a poignant invitation to the sacredness of Lent, a time of purging poorly formed habits that hinder our personal and community’s growth. It reminds our "beloved community" at Saint Ann’s, Fire Island Ministries and the Great South Bay Deanery and our church-at-large that grace thrives where secrets are discarded. Remember our winter liturgy from the Fr. Jae Chung Parish Hall, a lack of heat sat us nearer to one another, the closeness and proximity brough us together, there is no in-group or out-group, we cannot use language about my church, no; it is our Church.

Let our liturgies this Lent continue to be a sanctuary. Let us choose spiritual integrity over institutional self-protection or self-preservation. Let us move from darkness to the light. If you meet the foreigner, be kind. Welcome them. All are welcome. You belong here. Thanks be to God.

With gratitude, in joy and prayer,

Fr. Ben

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### **During Lent, try this prayer! From the Society of Jesus webpage, [www.jesuits.org](http://www.jesuits.org), The Ignatian Examen**

St. Ignatius invites us to find God in all things. That means we have to pay careful attention to how the Spirit is moving in each moment of our daily lives. We have to take a magnifying glass to the seemingly ordinary, seeking to encounter the Divine.

That’s why the Examen is such a powerful prayer. In it, we’re invited to encounter God, express gratitude for the gift and gifts of each day, and to commit to make up for any mistakes we may have made.

The Examen is a flexible prayer, too, responding to the signs of the times. Below, you’ll find several variations to meet your need in this moment.

### **How to Pray the Examen (Take 15 minutes out of your day, build up to one Examen at midday, and another Examen before bedtime.)**

1. Place yourself in God’s presence. Give thanks for God’s great love for you.
2. Pray for the grace to understand how God is acting in your life.
3. Review your day — recall specific moments and your feelings at the time.
4. Reflect on what you did, said, or thought in those instances. Were you drawing closer to God, or further away?
5. Look toward tomorrow — think of how you might collaborate more effectively with God’s plan. Be specific, and conclude with the “Our Father.”

## Some thoughts from your Deacon...

"...do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." Isaiah 41:10

Isaiah has a way of playing with our emotions. While studying the Book of Isaiah in my classes at Mercer, there were times I wanted to scream, wondering "Could he BE any more dreary and woeful?!?!" There seemed not to be a spark of joy in him...take for instance, Isaiah 41:14. It is only 4 short verses from the one at the top of this writing, and yet, a completely different tone, "Do not fear (that's good) you worm Jacob (Really? Worm? Hardly complimentary!) you insect, Israel! (I'd be afraid to ask him which insect he was referring to, but I'm sure it was not a butterfly or a honey bee!) But, it's just the way he is. He pushes us to the edge, and then pulls us back with beautiful verses about faith, reassuring us that the Lord loves us and is our strength.



That's kind of the way Lent seems, too, isn't it? We begin on Ash Wednesday, strong in our convictions; knowing exactly how we will observe a penitential Lent, and then life gets in the way...or we get bored...or we skip a day here or a day there, and then really, what's the point? It's not like we can make up for lost time...or can we?

Our God forgives us. He is the doting Father, loving us as we are, warts and all. What matters is not that we may have slipped, but that we get back up again. That we remember why we began this journey. No journey is without pitfalls and bumps. Yes, Jesus fasted for 40 days in the desert and he refused all that the devil offered him, but he did that so that we don't have to.

So, stare down that chocolate! Ignore the tidbit of gossip! Turn-off the Housewives of wherever! Pick up your daily devotions and remember that God, our loving Lord and Father, has given us the strength to make it through Lent...draw of his strength. It's there for the taking.

Blessings,  
Deacon Susan

Reminder:

Our March Senior Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, March 10th! A sign-up sheet for the luncheon is in the Parish Hall.

We will begin with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the Saint Barnabas Chapel at 11:15. We will then proceed to the Upper Parish Hall for our St. Patrick's Day themed luncheon!

Be sure to wear your finest green! As always, there is no cost for the event, but we welcome contributions to our Food Pantry, specifically condiments.

### **Communion where you live**

If you are unable to attend church, regardless of the duration, and would like a Lay Eucharistic visitor to bring communion to you at home or in a facility, please call the church office, Father Ben, Deacon Susan, or Deacon Bob to schedule a visit.

## VESTRY VISIONS

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I can't believe that we are now in the Lenten season, it seems like we were just getting ready for Christmas and now Easter is upon us. This year Holy Week will be in shared deanery, meaning that different churches will be hosting events. St. Ann's will be hosting the walk and praying of the Stations of the Cross in our cemetery. If you have never done the Stations of the Cross, I am encouraging you to do it. Everyone has a different experience. I both hate it and love it. As we walk and pray, I wonder and try to imagine what it was like for our LORD and his followers to go through this. It is our tendency to think of the Gospels as history, far removed from who and where we are today. The Gospels are a living and personal experience today for all of us. We can apply them to our day-to-day experiences.

The Stations of the Cross is one of the most simple, yet powerful ways to prayerfully walk alongside Jesus and encounter him like never before.

There are fourteen Stations of the Cross. Each one is an invitation to contemplate and experience a pivotal moment from Jesus sentencing to his death and burial.

Please join the Daughters of the King on April 3, at 11:00 a.m. in the cemetery.

For the Vestry,

Carol Ann St. Lawrence

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On a cold and blustery Saturday morning, Fr. Ben, Willy, and Deacon Susan supported Nancy and Gerry Pagels as they braved the very cold, but not yet icy, Great South Bay during the Viking Plunge!



## Thinking About:

### Our Great South Bay and an Organization Trying to Save It

In the mornings when I walk our dog Nya, we usually end up at the bay admiring its beauty. It's one of the natural resources that make the south shore of Long Island the beautiful place it is. One of the things that surprise me about the bay though, (other than its freezing for a substantial part of February!) is the varying degrees of water clarity. Sometimes, the bay is as clear as stream water, and on other days it's a murky brown – almost to the point where it has the color of light brown chocolate. The bay has also been victim to different types of algae blooms which are harmful to marine life. Clearly, the bay is in trouble and needs our help. It's not the bay remembered by the folks that grew up here. So, for this Creation Care article, I'd like to talk about the organization 'Save the Great South Bay' who's doing just that.

Save the Great South Bay is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration of The Great South Bay. The organization was founded in 2012 by members from the Sayville High School Class of '77 alumni at their 35<sup>th</sup> graduation reunion. The organization now has a membership of over 13,000 members. Currently, Save the Great South Bay has three main programs that it employs in its effort to revitalize the bay. These programs are: The Creek Defender Program, The Great South Bay Oyster Project and the Bay Friendly Yards Program. Actually, the best part of these programs is that you can volunteer to support each of them! My goal for this coming year is to volunteer at least once for each of these programs, and then to write a Creation Care article for each telling about my experiences. But for right now I'll just tell you a little about each of these programs

The first of these is the Creek Defender Program. According to their website ([www.savethesouthbay.com](http://www.savethesouthbay.com)), there are about 50 creeks that feed into the great south bay. It's easy to reason that the health of these creeks have an impact on the health of the bay. The purpose of this program is to enlist local community volunteers to take part in creek clean-ups (removing litter, debris and invasive species), and initiatives that involve habitat restoration and native species plantings (actually, I volunteered to take part in the March 15<sup>th</sup> clean-up at San Souci Lakes, in Sayville – an approximately 2-hour commitment).

The next program is the Great South Bay Oyster Project. From June to September the organization plants approximately 150,000 oysters in oyster gardens along the south shore. Volunteers care for these oysters weekly by cleaning the crates they're in and measuring and tracking their growth. In September, the oysters are transferred to the bay where each oyster can filter approximately 50 gallons of water per day. According to the website, caring for the oysters takes about an hour commitment on the day a person volunteers.

The third initiative that the organization promotes is the Bay Friendly Yard Program. This program encourages homeowners to make their yards bay friendly by providing wonderful resources in the form of literature, webinars, and a downloadable E-Book. Changes to our yards like removing invasive plants and replacing them with natives instead, go a long way to reducing the use of fertilizers and pesticides. Also, by

controlling our storm water runoff, we can help reduce the amount of fertilizer which eventually finds its way into the bay.

I highly recommend checking out their website ([www.savethegreatsouthbay.com](http://www.savethegreatsouthbay.com)). It has a ton of great and informative resources. What a great way for old, young and everyone in between to get involved in the stewardship of this wonderful and important resource we love – The Great South Bay!

Peace and Fellowship to All,

Joe Castelli 😊

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One Sunday when it was too cold inside our Church, we celebrated mass in the newly christened Father Jae Chung Parish Hall



## In remembrance of The Very Reverend Father Robert Wilshire

Excerpts from some email messages sent from a former parishioner, John Vestigo:

I grew up at Saint Ann's in the 1970s, and my 94-year-old mother and I were just reminiscing about Father Wilshire. We were discussing what a powerful, positive influence he was on our family and wondering where his journey took him after his years in Sayville. It is hard to think of him any less than our family.

To me, he was a total rock star. I remember hearing about his Australian background—we always wondered what led him so far from home to serve us in New York, but never explored nor understood why we were so lucky to have him! I was in his confirmation class when I was about 12, (I think 1976), and I know we were a handful; looking back, we were likely quite unruly. But Father Wilshire was firm and caring at the same time; he just "got" us. I'll never forget how he showed up at my hospital bed at South Side, completely unannounced, just to see how I was doing. That kind of guidance is rare, and it truly helped shape what I think to this day.

My mother and I still have such fond memories of the community he built—the simple joy of the coffee, tea, and donuts after every service in the parish, and of course, those great St. Barnabas Day celebrations, and don't forget midnight mass on Christmas Eve!!

We always went to church twice, as I remember. Once to drop mom off for choir and then go to 10am mass to actually listen to her! Dad always said it was a good break time for hot bagels and a Sunday paper... I just wanted to clam, crab and play street hockey with my bud's. Glad it worked out the way it did. Glad I had a Saint Ann's family to share our spiritual values, and glad Father Wilshire was there to show the difference of play and community and connect the two.

If the parish archives have any photos of him or mentions of those St. Barnabas Day events in the old newsletters, it would mean the world to us to see them.

It feels wonderful to reconnect with you [Father Ben] and the Saint Ann's community. Looking back, it is interesting to realize that the true heroes of our childhood are often the figures who provided positive guidance, even if we didn't fully recognize their impact at the time. I wish I could have shared that with Father Wilshire directly, though I suspect he knew the value of his work.

Father Wilshire had such a booming voice and a commanding conviction; he truly never needed a microphone. He was always on the move, yet he consistently made time for everyone—whether for a simple greeting, a word of consolation, or even a bad joke. He certainly had a great sense of humor. We were aware of his service at the Cathedral in Garden City through a personal family memory. In 1985, my brother Stephen asked him to preside over his wedding. My father initially thought it was a long shot, assuming Father Wilshire would be far too busy with his important duties at the Cathedral. To our astonishment and appreciation, he accepted. He truly wore his heart on his sleeve, and his dedication remains deeply inspiring to us.

Thank you for your time and for all you do to preserve these memories for our parish family.

Warmly, and with best regards,

John Cooper Vestigo  
jcvestigo@gmail.com  
190 Hurlburl Rd, Pennelville, NY 13132  
(315) 529-3777  
Mom - Corinne Sylvia Vestigo  
Father George Lawrence Vestigo (decd)

**Father Wilshire** was Rector of Saint Ann's for 9 years. After that he was Dean of The Cathedral of the Incarnation for 20 years. In 1999 he retired. He died on July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1999 at his home in Wilmington, NC. God bless him & his family.

Please look up his obituary in the New York Times for more details. If you have any photos, information or stories about Father Wilshire please email them to:

John Vestigo at [jcvestigo@gmail.com](mailto:jcvestigo@gmail.com) and  
The Correspondent at [correspondent@saint-anns.org](mailto:correspondent@saint-anns.org)



FIRST INTENTIONAL COMMUNION 2/15/26



Olivia Cessarino, Penelope Neilon, Maci Moylan



## In the News

Parish news and a round-up of items announced in emails and at weekend services.

Send stories and/ or photos for The Correspondent to [correspondent@saint-anns.org](mailto:correspondent@saint-anns.org) by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month.

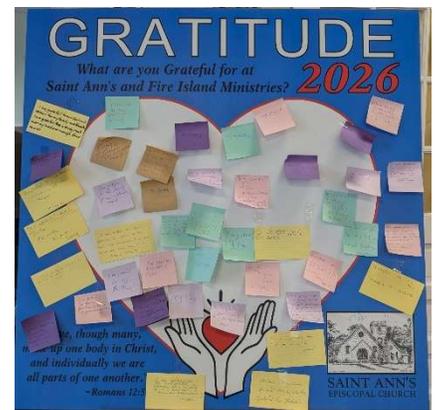
Please submit announcements to the office by Wednesday each week.

Called to the Lord: **Charles D., Rose L-M., Rita G., Gerri H., Anna T. and Jay A.** May all those who have passed from this life, find peace in heaven and may their loved ones on earth be comforted by cherished memories.

A mailing about **Easter memorial flowers** was sent in February. Contact the office if you did not receive it.

**Senior Luncheon** will be on **March 10<sup>th</sup>**, preceded by a service in the **Chapel at 11:15 am**. Please bring a contribution to the Food Pantry.

**Gratitude Board:** Saint Ignatius Loyola espoused the prayer practice called Examen (reflecting daily on what was life giving and what was life draining). His own experience taught him that God was present in all things. Gratitude was a natural response to that awareness – and ingratitude was a form of ignorance. Practicing gratitude leads to trusting that God will be present in all things – the “positive” and the “challenging.” It leads to trusting that one can live in the present moment, rather than getting lost in the past or future. (cf. the Loyola Spirituality Center.) Please take a moment to write out your gratitude(s) and place them on our Gratitude Board. Our Gratitude Board is located in the Fr. Jae Chung Parish Hall. We will periodically reference them throughout Lent.



**One Monday a month - 10:30am - Holy Eucharist – Rite II - Healing Service - @ Saint Ann's (In-Person) at The Bristol Assisted Living Sayville, next Service is March 9<sup>th</sup>.**

A Lenten virtual book club via Google Meet started Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. **We will be reading [Henri J.M. Nouwen's \(1992\) The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming](#).** We will meet virtually through GOOGLE MEET. Every Tuesday in Lent. Refer to Father Ben's weekly email for the link.

**The Cathedral of the Incarnation** announced the appointment of **Rev. Canon Adam Bucko as Subdean:** Bucko, who also serves as Abbot of the Community of the Incarnation - a new monastic community birthed at the Cathedral and now serving people across the country - believes that contemplative practice forms the foundation of community life. Bucko offers this keen insight: "What holds us together is not agreement, but prayer," Bucko explained. "As we gather again and again, bringing all that we have and all that we are into God's presence, we learn to remain close and to listen more deeply. From that shared practice of contemplation, our life together and our life in the world are shaped." Thanks be to God.

We need individuals and families to sign up for the **Sunday Coffee Hour**. The list is in the Fr. Jae Chung Parish Hall. Thanks!

The People's Arc is now helping with our **Food Pantry Ministry**. This has enabled us to open an extra day. We are now open on **Mondays & Wednesdays** from 10 am to noon. Donations placed in the little red wagon in the Fr. Jae Chung Parish Hall are always appreciated.

Our website now has a **calendar of events** to review. Check it out: <https://www.saint-anns.org/>

**Wednesday services**, at 11 am in our Saint Barnabas Chapel, includes **Anointing of the Sick and Eucharist**. It is followed by the **Grief Group**. Through pastoral counseling, many will receive the graces they need to find God in all things, and to begin to find in others a community of love and mutual support.

**The Saint Ann's Tree of Life/Wall of Remembrance**, located outside the Chapel, is a great way to acknowledge a loved one, friend, neighbor or colleague. For more information call us at the Parish Administration Offices.

Saint Ann's seeks members for the **Altar Guild** and a **Counter** to join our volunteers who account for our stewardship, tithing: various offerings and plate giving. Please contact Lynne at the Parish Office if you would like to learn more about how to get involved, her email is [office@saint-anns.org](mailto:office@saint-anns.org).

### **Other Events either not mentioned on the first page, or with more details:**

March 7th, March Market at the Bayport United Methodist Church.

March 18, (Rescheduled) 6 pm at the Lenten Soup Supper, Parish Presentation by Thomas Petriano, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of Theology at St. Joseph's University; Topic: The Life of Henri Nouwen.

March 21st, New Vestry Retreat with Mother Carol Pinkham Oak.

March 31st, Sharktank Showdown with The People's Arc of Suffolk County and Rise Life Services, please join in fundraising for these amazing community organizations.

May 15th, 7pm, The Off-Broadway play Communion by Matt La Banca from the Fr. Jae Chung Parish Hall, RSVP at the Office, suggested donation \$40.00.

Taken from <https://www.canterburydiocese.org/installation-of-the-106th-archbishop-of-canterbury.php>

The Installation of the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, will take place at Canterbury Cathedral on Wednesday 25 March 2026, the Feast of the Annunciation.

Historically known as an enthronement, the Installation marks the symbolic start of the Archbishop of Canterbury's public ministry in the Church of England and across the Anglican Communion.

Rooted in centuries of tradition, the service will look forward with the hope of Jesus Christ - and celebrate the diversity of the Church of England, the nation and the Anglican Communion today.

Archbishop Sarah will be installed on the Cathedral Chair (Cathedra) as the Diocesan Bishop of the See of Canterbury, the oldest diocese in the English church. Following this, she will be installed on the Chair of St Augustine (St Augustine Cathedra) as Primate of All England, which also symbolises her ministry in the Anglican Communion.



The Feast of the Annunciation celebrates the day the Angel Gabriel told Mary she would be the mother of Jesus.

Details about the Installation service will be shared in the lead up to the service.

Bishop Sarah remains Bishop of London until her Confirmation of Election at St Paul's Cathedral on 28 January 2026, at which she will legally become the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Until then, as well as preparing to begin her ministry as Archbishop, Bishop Sarah is fulfilling her remaining commitments as Bishop of London.



# Meet & Greet

The Transition Committee joyfully invites the Diocese of Long Island to a series of Meet & Greet Sessions with the nominees for Ninth Bishop of Long Island. These gatherings are an opportunity to come together in prayerful discernment — to listen, reflect, and engage thoughtfully as we seek God’s guidance for the future of our diocese.

## TUESDAY MARCH 10

**St. George's  
Episcopal Church**  
800 Marcy Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY

Doors: 6:30 PM | Start: 7:00 PM

## WEDNESDAY MARCH 11

**Church of the  
Transfiguration**  
81 South Long Beach Avenue  
Freeport, NY

Doors: 6:30 PM | Start: 7:00 PM

## THURSDAY MARCH 12

**Clergy Zoom Session**

| 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

## FRIDAY MARCH 13

**Church of St. Anselm  
of Canterbury**  
4 Woodville Road  
Shoreham, NY

Doors: 6:30 PM | Start: 7:00 PM

## SATURDAY MARCH 14

**St. George's  
Episcopal Church**  
135-32 38th Avenue  
Flushing, NY

Doors: 10:30 AM | Start: 11:00 AM

Register for each session at [DIOCESELI.ORG/MEETGREET](https://dioceseli.org/meetgreet)



## Lenten Soup Suppers

It has been a spiritual and fellowship tradition at St. Ann's to offer a mid-week Soup Supper ministry where we share in the {literal} breaking of bread (Italian, from King Kullen!) and enjoyment of home-made soup donated by **you** and fellow parishioners. A signup list is posted on the bulletin board by the window in the lower Parish Hall for Parish soup makers to share their special recipes with the rest of us... For those of us who are talented in contributing desserts, we set up a table in your honor for your contributions as well. Suppers begin at 6, and at 7 pm, we embrace an hour of spiritual discovery and introspection as we reflect together on Henri J.M. Nouwen's (1994) *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming*, copies will be made available for participants.

**Lenten Soup Suppers** will be held on **March 4th, 11th and 18th** at 6 pm in the Father Jae Chung Parish Hall. We will reflect together on Henri J.M. Nouwen's (1994) *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming*, copies will be made available for participants.

On March 18th the Lenten Soup Supper will include a presentation by **Thomas Petriano, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Theology at St. Joseph's University; Topic: The Life of Henri Nouwen.

We will also reflect on this book via Google Meet, every Tuesdays in March at 12:15pm, please email Fr. Ben to receive the link: [frbenjamin@saint-anns.org](mailto:frbenjamin@saint-anns.org).

## Irish Step Dancing

On March 15th at 11:15 am we will have a wonderful display of **Irish Step Dancing** featuring Linda and Richard Maddox's granddaughters and their fellow dancers from the **Mulvihill-Lynch School of Irish Dance!** Come and join us for a joyful hour of fellowship after the 10:00 am service.



## Bell Tower Preservation: A Joyful Beginning

Our Bell Tower Preservation Project is off to a wonderful start. Thanks to the early responses, initial pledges are already approaching \$40,000! We are deeply grateful for this enthusiastic beginning and for the generosity that continues to shape our shared life at St. Ann's.

Every contribution—large or small—helps us preserve the historic bell tower that has long stood as a visible symbol of faith, welcome, and community in Sayville. This project strengthens not only the tower itself, but the joyful witness it offers to our neighbors. As the bells continue to ring out over our town—calling us to worship, to fellowship, and to service—they will carry the spirit and mission of St. Ann's well into the future.

Pledge cards were mailed at the beginning of February, and additional cards can be found in the Father Jae Chung Parish Hall. If you need a card mailed to you, the Parish Office is happy to assist.

Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU to all who have joined the effort so far, and to everyone who continues to hold this work in prayer and support.

May God bless this work and may the sound of our bells continue to inspire hope and community for generations to come.

Rich Maddox & Laurin Clemens  
Co-Chairs, Bell Tower Preservation Committee



With joy and gratitude: **The Fire Island Ministries Program** begins Memorial Day Weekend and ends Labor Day Weekend. Fr. Ben and soon-to-be-Fr. Bob, along with Supply Priests will preside at the Services. There will be an 11am Service on June 14th in The Pines for those that cannot join us for Saint Barnabas Day. If you want to join the Fire Island Ministries Committee, please see Fr. Ben.

## ~ Fire Island Ministries Schedule of Services, Summer Program 2026 ~

May 24, 11am: Cherry Grove, Community Center (Summer Program Starts)

May 31, 11am: The Pines, Whyte Hall Community Center

June 7, 11am: Cherry Grove, Community Center

June 14, 10am, Saint Barnabas Day ~ Cherry Grove and The Pines Invade Saint Ann's Sayville

June 21, 11am: Cherry Grove, Community Center

June 28, 11am: The Pines, Whyte Hall Community Center

July 5, 11am: Cherry Grove, Community Center

July 12, 11am: The Pines, Whyte Hall Community Center

July 19, 11am: Cherry Grove, Community Center

July 26, 11am: The Pines, Whyte Hall Community Center

August 2, 11am: Cherry Grove, Community Center

August 9, 11am: The Pines, Whyte Hall Community Center

August 16, 11am: Cherry Grove, Community Center

August 23, 11am: Saint Ann's Sayville Invasion @ Cherry Grove, Community Center

August 30, 11am: The Pines, Whyte Hall Community Center

September 6, 11am: Cherry Grove, Community Center (Summer Program Ends)

### **Will you help?**

We are in need of volunteers to support our **live stream ministry**, which nourishes the spiritual life of our parishioners who cannot make it to the Church for the service.

Please see Joe Castelli or Father Ben to learn more about this important ministry.

We are also looking for more Ushers, Lectors, Acolytes/Crucifers, Singers, Eucharistic Ministers, Coffee Hour hosts and Altar Guild members. Talk to Fr. Ben or Text the word SERVE to: 929-445-3781 to sign up.

## Did You Know...

Did you know that warden Randy Schultz was a three-pound baby when he was born back in the early 1950's? He came a month early when his mom slipped off steps at a house where she and his dad were living in Charleston, South Carolina. His father was stationed at the US Naval base there. Randy spent 6 weeks in an incubator at the naval hospital before he was flown back to Long Island. By then, he weighed just under 5 pounds, which is much better than 3 pounds!



Did you know Randy and his sister were the third generation of graduates of 4-year colleges by the time they graduated in the mid 1970's? Randy's father was president of West Islip school board for 12 years, and his mother taught early elementary education for 20 years. Education, attention to detail and commitment were values cherished by this family.

Did you know that Rev. Robert Schwartz, retired rector of St. Ann's was one of Randy's Sunday School teachers back at St. Peter's Episcopal Church? Teacher and student were "reunited" when Randy attended St. Ann's in 1987 after buying an old house in Blue Point with me (his spouse of 39 years). After listening to the Doxology, Randy knew this church was the place for him.

Other kinds of Did You Knows are...his favorite pie is pecan and dinner is spaghetti & meatballs; His favorite pet is a friendly cat even though due to severe allergies, we have not had cats for many years. Fortunately, our neighbor did have mother & son cats who came to visit. Cats and dogs just love Randy maybe due to his friendly animal voice and just the right kind of petting. He found recently he also has a good touch with one white cockatoo as well, was not bitten even once!



While he and his childhood family visited many countries, he found he loves upstate New York (my country) very much for its many miles of farms, fields, lakes, rivers, friendly people. Each year we visit my family in Cayuga Lake and go see other places such as Saranac Lake and Letchworth State Park.

Did you know that, in the summer, Randy's favorite thing to do is to kill my tomatoes...he watches them grow and waits for the day I pick them. Then immediately he cuts, peels and mashes them into his crockpot and waits for homemade spaghetti sauce and strained tomato juice. Last summer, when I worked as volunteer for Bayard Cutting Arboretum's CSA farm, he was in tomato heaven when I came home occasionally with less than perfect CSA tomatoes given by the farm manager.

Thank you, Sue, for a wonderful article about your husband Randy.

PLEASE PRAY

**The Saint Ann's and Fire Island Communities pray especially this week for: Alex, Beth, Billy, Deacon Bob, Charlie, Colleen, Debi, Diana, Father Edwin and Family, Eric, Florence, Gerri, Gladys, John, Kathy, Lauren, Lily, Margaret, and Wayne.**

Let us also pray for peace in the Ukraine, Somalia, the Middle East, for those affected by addiction and violence involving guns, and for the least and the marginalized, the poor and the scapegoats amongst us.

*Please submit the name(s) of a loved one going forward to the parish office, text PRAYER to 631-212-2320 to receive a link for making prayer requests, or submit the form on the Saint Anns website - [saint-anns.org](http://saint-anns.org).*

Use this link: <https://form.jotform.com/212086636121146>

Congratulations on your anniversary!

March 6<sup>th</sup> Fr. Ben Brenkert & Willian A. Brenkert

If you want to see your birthday or anniversary on this page, send an email to [correspondent@saint-anns.org](mailto:correspondent@saint-anns.org)

Birthday and anniversary photos are appreciated too. Your photos can be current or past celebrations.

The office would appreciate updates on address, phone numbers, birthdays & anniversaries too. Contact them via email [office@saint-anns.org](mailto:office@saint-anns.org) or by phone: 631-589-6522

March Birthdays:



- 1 Peg Flanagan
- 1 Mary Jean Lap-Bohanick
- 3 Nancy Leuly
- 5 Brendan Mattimore
- 12 Ed Moran
- 13 Sally Stoll-DePompeo
- 19 Judith Meyer
- 24 Nicole LaFontaine
- 25 Ron Sanchez
- 26 Jill Hughes
- 27 Joan Palmieri
- 27 Julie MacDonell
- 28 Philip DePompeo
- 28 Sharon Vander Borgh
- 29 Robert Gaito

## View from Behind the Pole



There is room for YOU in this procession!  
We would love to have some new voices!

Choir practice in the church runs September through June. On the first Tuesday of each month, we practice at 1 pm, all other Tuesdays we practice at 6:45 pm.

If you have any questions, you can call Kathy Senese at the church office or email her at [music@saint-anns.org](mailto:music@saint-anns.org)



# A Story of Faith, Conscience, and Belonging Comes to Sayville

## **COMMUNION** — the acclaimed autobiographical play by Matthew LaBanca

**Friday, May 15, 2026 at 7:00 PM**

Saint Ann's Episcopal Church  
257 Middle Road, Sayville, NY

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A teacher is fired after marrying the person he loves — and his community must confront what faith really asks of them.

The internationally presented solo play *Communion* arrives in Sayville this spring for a special one-night engagement at Saint Ann's Episcopal Church. Written and performed by Broadway actor and playwright Matthew LaBanca, the work explores religious identity, institutional conflict, and the possibility of reconciliation between spirituality and LGBTQ+ lives.

Based on LaBanca's real-life dismissal from a Catholic school after his marriage, *Communion* traces the ripple effects across students, families, clergy, and parishioners — asking not who belongs in the Church, but what belonging actually means.

"This play opens a sacred conversation," said Benjamin J. Brenkert, Priest-in-Charge at Saint Ann's. "Faith is not weakened by honesty; it is strengthened by it. Stories like Matthew's invite us to see Christ in one another more clearly — especially in those the Church has struggled to understand. For many LGBTQ+ people, this is not abstract theology. It is their spiritual life."

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### **From Headlines to Healing**

Following national media attention surrounding LaBanca's termination, the experience evolved into a theatrical work that premiered Off-Broadway at the cell theatre under the direction of Kira Simring and has since toured theaters, universities, and faith communities across the country. The piece has also been adapted into a feature film now screening internationally and through hosted community events.

Rather than debate doctrine, the performance centers human experience — grief, humor, anger, compassion, and hope — encouraging audiences of all beliefs to reflect together.

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### **Creative Team**

#### **Matthew LaBanca — Writer/Performer**

Broadway credits include *Young Frankenstein*, *White Christmas*, and *A Christmas Carol*. His award-winning solo work has been presented nationwide. *Communion* draws directly from his personal story and ongoing dialogue with faith communities.

#### **Alissa Orlando — Lead Producer**

Co-producer of *The Queen of Versailles*, *Maybe Happy Ending*, *Operation Mincemeat*, and *Goddess*. Co-founder of You Should Smile More Productions and an entrepreneur focused on community-driven creative projects.

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## Event Information

**Date:** Friday, May 15, 2026

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** Saint Ann's Episcopal Church, 257 Middle Road, Sayville, NY

**Running Time:** Approximately 65 minutes, followed by optional community conversation

The evening is open to all — people of faith, doubt, curiosity, or none — and especially welcomes LGBTQ+ individuals, families, educators, and spiritual seekers.

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## About Saint Ann's Episcopal Church

Founded in the 19th century, Saint Ann's Episcopal Church in Sayville is committed to hospitality, service, and thoughtful engagement with contemporary moral and spiritual questions. Through worship, outreach, and the arts, the parish seeks to foster dialogue rooted in compassion and the Gospel's call to love one another.

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For additional information or interview requests, please contact Saint Ann's Episcopal Church at 631-589-6522.

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Ian & Emma Chung played wonderfully on 2/15/26

# SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER





It was so wonderful to receive email from a former parishioner describing his experience at Saint Ann's. It's on page 9. I took the liberty to merge two of his emails to Father Ben into the article. Please consider adding to the recollections of our former Rector Father Wilshire or send along recollections of another member of our Saint Ann's community. It's these shared stories that make us a community.

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Have your kids longed to see their photo or story in The Correspondent? Have you? There is a very easy fix: email me at **[correspondent@saint-anns.org](mailto:correspondent@saint-anns.org)**. I am always looking for kids to feature in our Saint Ann's Stars page and people for our "Did You Know" page.

This is OUR newsletter so let's make it the best we can. Send your birthday & anniversary dates. Share your good news about births, baptisms, graduations, weddings, new jobs, awards or anything else you think the parish would enjoy reading about. Send a photo. Contribute a poem or short essay. Write your reaction to a sermon or a hymn.

Send ideas for "Creation Corner" to **Joe Castelli at [53jcas@gmail.com](mailto:53jcas@gmail.com)**  
**subject: Creation Care**

Everything else should be emailed to **[correspondent@saint-anns.org](mailto:correspondent@saint-anns.org)**.

Documents should be in **Microsoft Word format or as text in the email**. Photos can take many formats but be sure to send them as "large files" or originals depending on your equipment. These options will produce the best printed photos.

Please observe the deadline which is **always the 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month**. Exceptions may be made for events that happen after the 15th – just ask.

*Eileen Moran*

Deadline for the next issue:  
3/15/26

**Find us on Instagram: [saint\\_anns\\_sayville\\_new\\_york](#) and Facebook:  
St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Sayville, NY**

# The Correspondent

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to spread the gospel of Christ in thought, word, and deed to our community and the world.



[www.saint-anns.org](http://www.saint-anns.org)

Saint Ann's is a member of the Sayville Chamber of Commerce