



Our Lady of Hope Church

534 Broadway • Carle Place, NY 11514-1712

Tel 516.334.6288 • Fax 516.997.4622

www.olhope.org • secretary@olhope.org

Pastor Rev. Thomas V. Arnao, J.C.D.

Deacons Thomas B. Rich,
Patrick J. Dunphy

Sunday Priests

Rev. Edward Dowling, SJ

Staff

Rei Cornelius, Parish Office Manager

Mr. Raymond Henderson, Liturgical Music Director

Deacon Thomas Rich, TSA, D.Min., J.C.L.

Director of Religious Education

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 am

Holy Days as announced

Weekday Mass Schedule-Mon to Fri 9:00 Mass

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday at 4:00 pm or by appointment

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Celebrated on the 3rd Sunday at 1:00 pm.

Please register in advance. There is a Baptismal Preparation Class on the last Sunday of alternating months after the 10:00 am Mass. Parents must attend the class prior to the child's baptism. Godparents are welcome.

Godparent Pre-Requisites - Godparents must be practicing Catholics in good standing, 16 years of age or older, Baptized and Confirmed Catholic.

CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

The Church provides certain times and preparation for weddings. Please contact the Church Office at least nine months in advance to begin the process.

CARE OF THE SICK

Please notify the Church Office when someone is seriously ill so that we can provide spiritual care.

OFFICE HOURS

Parish Office 334.6288

Mon to Fri 9:30 am to 4:00 pm, Sat 9 am to 2 pm

Sunday closed

Religious Education Office 334.4781

Maria Vargas, Coordinator

Email rel-ed@olhope.org

See www.olhope.org for more information

St. Brigid / Our Lady of Hope Regional School
333.0580

101 Maple Ave, Westbury, NY 11590

Mr. Paul Clagnaz, Principal

St. Vincent de Paul Society 334.6288 x 18

REGISTRATION

Every family and person within the parish is encouraged to register with the Church Office.

ON BECOMING A CATHOLIC

Those seeking information about the Catholic Faith are invited to contact the Church Office at 334.6288.

PRAYER

Novena Tues after 9:00 am Mass

Rosary after each weekday Mass

Holy Hour Thurs 1:00 pm

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the parish family of Our Lady of Hope, commit ourselves to continue the mission of Jesus Christ, to proclaim His Gospel, and to love one another as He loves us. We are a welcoming community of faith, guided by the Holy Spirit and centered on God's Word and the Eucharist. Through the Sacraments, prayer, and the stewardship of our God-given gifts, we provide opportunities to grow closer to God and to serve members of the community.



Our Lady of Hope This Week

WE FOLLOW AND SERVE WITH HEARTS REMADE IN CHRIST

To make us His people and show us His love, God established a covenant with us. Christ came to usher in a new covenant—one that would reconcile us to God and draw all people to Himself. With hearts remade, we follow and serve Him.

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LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord announces *a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah*. The Letter to the Hebrews speaks of Jesus as *the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him*. In the Gospel, Jesus tells Andrew and Philip that the time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified, and that those who serve Him must follow Him.

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STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Although a seemingly minor scene in today’s Gospel, Philip and Andrew bring the Greek visitors to see Jesus. We should be like the Apostles and bring others to Jesus through our way of life.

2021 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL	
Goal	\$55,100
Pledged	\$9,865
Paid	\$7,175
% of Goal pledged	18%
% of Goal paid	7%
Donors	48



THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT

Please join us on Fridays during Lent for the Stations of the Cross at 7:30pm.

May the upcoming holy season offer you an opportunity for prayer, reflection and growth in God’s grace. Some have inquired about the practice of fast and abstinence:

Fasting obliges all Catholics (from ages 18 to 59 inclusive) to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On the fast days, we may take one full meal, two smaller meals and no snacking in between meals. Abstinence obliges all Catholics (14 years and older) to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday AND all other Fridays in Lent.

Easter Season 2021

Palm Sunday March 28, 2021

Holy Thursday April 1, 2021
9am Morning Prayer (no 9am Mass)
7:30pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper

Good Friday April 2, 2021
9am Morning Prayer (no 9am Mass)
3pm The Lord’s Passion
7:30pm Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday April 3, 2021
9am Morning Prayer (no 9am Mass)
7:30pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday April 4, 2021
8:30 am, 10am & 11:30am Masses

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Levels 1-8 All Mass Reflections are to be submitted to the Religious Education office. Four Mass reflections are required for Levels 2-8, Level 1-only 2 are required.

Levels 1-6 Complete the required "Christ in Us" assignments online as well as the required pages in the book which will be collected at the end of the school year.

Level 2 The Religious Education office is happy to announce that First Holy Communion will take place Saturday, May 1 at 9:30am and 11:30am.

Level 6 If you have not submitted your Seder packet, please do so as soon as possible.

Level 8 The Religious Education office is happy to announce Confirmation will be held on April 14, 2021. All required work must be submitted no later than March 22. If you have not submitted your Sponsor Form and/or your Confirmation name, please do so as soon as possible. A letter was sent out last week explaining Confirmation procedures.

Any questions or concerns, please contact the Religious Education office.

Office hours: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 10am to 3pm and by appointment. Please call 516 334-4781.

VIRTUS TRAINING-PROTECT OUR CHILDREN!

Virtus is a program that gives us a specific plan in identifying and preventing child sexual abuse. The training is required of all diocesan personnel and volunteers in all parishes.

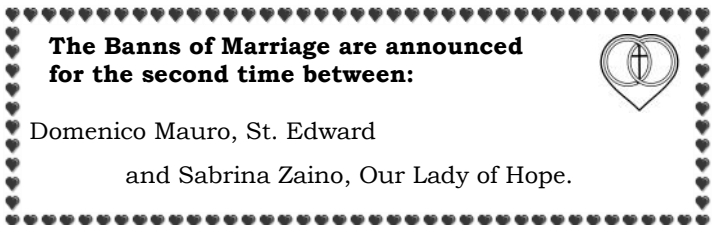
If you are a volunteer and still need to fulfill this obligation check the Long Island Catholic or the Diocesan website, www.drvc.org for training sessions available in the area. Please register for the class online or stop in the Church office.

The Office for the Protection of Children and Young People maintains a confidential phone line: 516 594-9063. We are available to help you or anyone who has been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church. All calls are responded to within 24 hours.



The Banns of Marriage are announced for the second time between:

Domenico Mauro, St. Edward
and Sabrina Zaino, Our Lady of Hope.



FLOWER FUND ENVELOPES

The Flower Fund envelopes should have been returned already but if you have not done so, please return your envelope as soon as possible.

CLOTHING DRIVE

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be holding its Spring Clothing Drive on Saturday, April 24 in the Our Lady of Hope Church parking lot from 10am to 1pm. Bring your unwanted clothing and shoes in plastic bags or on hangers. Clothes in any condition are accepted, because if the clothes are not wearable they will be recycled for rags.

ALTAR BREAD, ROSE FOR LIFE & SANCTUARY CANDLE

If you wish to donate the bread and wine for the week's Sunday and daily Eucharist celebrations, the offering is \$50. Opportunities to donate a Rose for Life are also available. The offering is \$5 per week. The sanctuary candle is available for memorialization. The offering is \$15.

OPPORTUNITIES TO REMEMBER LOVED ONES

There are opportunities to remember your loved ones by way of Mass intentions, the Rose for Life, the Sanctuary Candle and Altar Bread. There are Mass intentions available in April and Rose for Life, Sanctuary Candle and Altar Bread as early as February. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

OUR LADY OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY

Unfortunately, the Food Pantry has been unable to operate as it usually did but we have been able to do the work in this new atmosphere. We are still able to accept donations of non-perishable items and thank our parishioners who have continued to support the Pantry.

Thank you for your continued support of the people we all serve. Thank you all! Stay well!

The Food Pantry Staff

Let us pray...

FOR OUR PARISHIONERS SERVING IN UNIFORM

SPC Medic Gina Alexandro, US Army (D), LCpl. Joseph T. Hughes, USMC (D), Steven J. LaRosa, USMC, Michael B. Kilgannon, USAF, AC1 Eric Cullum, US Navy (D), Captain Kristofer Seibt, US Army (D), Cpl. Matthew Ketcham (D), Lt. Col. Matthew Kessler, USMC, Master Sgt. James Higgins, USMC, Robert Weingartner, Matthew Ziminsky, Daniel J. Vincent USAF, Timothy Vincent USMC, Captain Caitlin M. Drumm, USAF-MC, LT Joe Wengler (D), US Navy.

**D = Deployed*

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED...

especially our loved ones.



Sanctuary Candle

\$15



Rose for Life

\$5



Altar Bread & Wine

\$50

FOR ALL WHO ARE SICK

Maria Acierno, Elvia Aleman, Ronald Aman, Eleanor Angelis, Yvonne Angeles, Maya Annunziato, Mikey Armand, Jeanne (Porcelli) Aroyo, Anthony Barbera, Zachary Baas, Concetta Basso, Elizabeth Blake, Susan Blum, Deborah Bourassa, Dylan Braun, Mary Broyles, Fran Burgdorf, Peter Burkhardt, Giuseppe Burro, Diana Cabral, Eustacia Calderone, Chris Caplice, Maria Carrillo, Richard Casella, Gianna Casella, Marcel Chaillol, Joan Clarke, Judy Clickner, Gina Corleto, Josephine Corsina, George Costidis, Connie Cote, Lona Cruz, Esther Curran, Dana Day, Peter DeFilippo, Kim DeRidder, Marie DeSimone, Joseph DiBiasi, Elizabeth Dick, Bernard Dicks, Theresa Dicks, May Dong, Hailey Eimer, Joe Farinano, Alice Feldt, Margaret Flahive, Angelina Fortner, Marie Francis, Grace Franzese, Eileen Friel, Mario Gaigan, Gerry Georgio, Linda Gildea, Patricia Gioffre, Donna Girardi, Susan Goode, Emily Grimm, Norman Gruenfelder, Art Howell, Helen Jara, Patricia & Ralph Keck, Jacqueline Klein, Sue Klein, Barbara Knapp, Tom Knapp, Susan Goglia Kopas, Dorothy Kuchler, Maryann LaSardo, Mary Lou Lavelle, Patrick Lavin, Marietta Lettau, Lois Lewis, John Malavolta, Salma Malik, Sherrie Mayzie, John McDonald, Elaine Medoro, Maria Merz, Heather Morella, Baby Viviana Mortellaro, Angelina Muzio, Danny Noble, Kathleen Opak, Maureen Ostrowski, Angela Pascarella, Rylie Pederson, Antonio Perrino, Ann Peters, Loraine Pino, Joseph Piscitelli, Lorraine Poduch, Victor Praete, Vincent Purcell, Dan Riley, Joel Rivera, Daniel Roche, Nicole Roeder, George Rottkamp, Alex Salvaggio, Rosa Santos, John Saunders, Joseph Schaefer, Keith Schettino, Maureen Schroeder, Randy J. Smith, Darrell Stone, Nancy Tandi, Kerri Taylor, Rosemary Tempone, Florence Theroux, Joan Thue, James Tirone, Danny Tricarico, Christopher Velez, Janice Vetrano, Joseph Vigotty, Tommy Waters, Frank Wetmore, Maureen Wotten, Sondra Yannone, Rose Youngblood, Joe Zimmatore

Please call the parish office, if someone on this list has returned to reasonable health and can be removed from the list. At times, names may be taken off when we do not have any information about the person listed.

MINISTERS AT MASSES for March 27 & 28

	5:00pm	8:30am	10am	11:30am
PRESIDER	Fr. Arnao	Fr. Tomaz	Fr. Blake	Fr. Worthley
LECTOR	N. Moir	D. Oreste	P. Varol	A. Santana
ALTAR SERVERS	NA	NA	NA	NA
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	S. Dowling	P. Kelly	E. Kelly	B. Dunphy
	You are only needed to serve if there is NO DEACON, if you are specifically asked to serve as a substitute for the deacon or priest or you are asked to distribute the Eucharist in the lower church.			
MUSIC MINISTERS	Cantor/Organ		Cantor/Organ	Cantor/Organ

St. Brigid/Our Lady of Hope Regional School



100 DAYS OF SCHOOL!

We've had a number of fun celebrations and activities at St. Brigid/Our Lady of Hope in recent weeks! Our Early Childhood classes had a great time celebrating the 100th day of school. Some students and teachers even dressed up like 100 year olds!



Our Kindergarten and 1st grade students, both in-person and remote, participated in a presentation from the Long Island Children's Museum. During the presentation entitled "All Abuzz", the students learned all about various insects and even saw some real live bugs (the hissing cockroach was a fan favorite!) Afterward, everyone got to make their own bugs with materials provided by the museum.





With Easter being only weeks away, Christmas seems like a very long time ago. Even so, we thought it important for you, the parishioners of Our Lady of Hope, to know of the impact your generosity made on others at Christmastime. Thank you for always responding with generosity and good will.

Extraordinary reach. Unconditional care. Life-changing results.

Chair
Lee Vance

Vice Chairs
Brian T. Edwards
H. Craig Treiber
Stephen J. Tyree

Treasurer
Kelly L. Williams

Assistant Treasurer
Edward W. Stack

Secretary
Mary Pat Thornton

Assistant Secretary
Timothy Fulton

Members
James J. Beha II
Mirna Daouk
Peter A. Horowitz
Paulette LoMonaco, RGS
Justine A. Marcus
Richard E. Mayberry, Jr.
Vincent Moorehead
Guy Moszkowski
Jessica Taylor O'Mary
Elaine Phillips
M. Steven Williams
Michelle Yanche
Demetrios P. Yatrakis

President & CEO
Keith M. Little

Andrea Mengler
Our Lady of Hope
534 Broadway
Carle Place, NY 11514

Dear Generous Parishioners:

On behalf of SCO Family of Services, we would like to thank you for your generous donation of numerous assorted gift cards this holiday season. During this difficult year, your support helped brighten the holiday season for those we serve. Because of you, we provided new gifts to almost 5,300 individuals in our care.

SCO is the largest human services organization in the New York metropolitan area, providing a wide range of early childhood, youth development, family support, housing support, and foster care programs, as well as programs and services for people with developmental disabilities. SCO has provided vital human services throughout New York City and Long Island for 125 years.

We greatly appreciate your support. If you would like additional information about SCO Family of Services or our giving program, please do not hesitate to contact us at 631-213-0155 / mkatzman@sco.org (Marnie) or 631-213-0175 / lforgiione@sco.org (Lisa).

Thank you once again for making the holidays special for the men, women, children, and families of SCO Family of Services.

Sincerely,

Marnie
Marnie Katzman
Development Officer

Lisa
Lisa Forgiione
Program Support Center Associate

Thank you!

Wonderful idea for gift cards!

Our Lady of Hope Grotto - Memorial Garden

4"x8" engraved brick memorials are now available for the brick pavement in front of the Grotto of Our Lady of Hope on the east side of the church. The funds raised as a result of this project will be used to complete the beautiful pipe organ in the church begun in 2002. The economic down turn and emergency repairs on the church building and systems, required a delay in completing the organ. While the entire organ has been in the building since 2004, there were only funds to have 1,500 of the 3,000 pipes working. The loudest sets of pipes were installed, leaving the softer sounds to be set up at a later time. Our organ is among the most beautiful on Long Island and is very unique in that it is built of "recycled heritage" parts, many over a century old. Our organ contains the choicest pipes of organs built by the best organ makers of the late 19th century through the 20th century. The magnificent carved oak case was formed of elaborate choir stalls from a former monastery chapel. The system which operates the keyboards and pipes is run by state of the art computers. Please consider memorializing a loved one, while at the same time helping the parish complete one of its most beautiful attributes.

Some Engraving Options – 3 lines of ¾" Letters – 13 Characters per line (including space between words)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOHN SMITH	GOD BLESS THE JONES FAMILY	IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE CAROL WHITE

All characters will be capitalized in the same font. Spaces between words are counted as characters.

Please fill out the order form clearly and completely and return to the Parish Office.

Checks should be made out to: Our Lady of Hope Church

Name [PLEASE PRINT]

Address City State Zip Code

Telephone email (optional)

4" x 8" Memorial Brick @ \$125.00

4" x 8" duplicate for home @ \$50.00

Total \$ _____

Signature

Date



*“...let us stand beside our brothers and sisters in need, sharing our spiritual and material goods with them.”
- Pope Francis*

Almsgiving in Lent

During the Lenten Season we are asked to pray, fast and give alms.

Lent is a perfect time for us to pray for those in need - whether it is for their material, emotional or spiritual needs. And when you practice fasting and abstinence during these forty days, please remember those of our neighbors who are hungry, and consider sharing your gifts with them.

One way to do this is by making a gift to the **Catholic Ministries Appeal**, which supports programs that help to feed people in our community each year through Catholic Charities and our Parish Outreach programs.

Have you thought about “fasting” from a regular purchase of something – i.e., a hand-crafted beverage? Over a 10 month period, this simple “fast” can serve many people need!

\$6.25 a week for one month is \$25 -- over 10 months it is \$250.



For more information about the Catholic Ministries Appeal, please visit CatholicMinistriesAppeal.org or call 516-678-5800 ext. 296.

MASS INTENTIONS for the week of March 20, 2021



Saturday- March 20, 2021

5:00 PM – Pasquale N. Bavaro (by the Bavaro-Flach families)
 -Agnes A. Szempruch (by the Nolan family)
 -Christofer Comito (by Nick Tuosto)
 -Tony Barilla (by Cathy & Bob Small)
 -Gerhardt Ulm (by his wife & family)

Sunday- March 21, 2021

8:30 AM – For the People of the Parish
 10:00 AM – Domenico Buffolino (by Emma Cruz)
 11:30 AM – Jaclyn & Chris Falcon (by Anne & Tom Lonegan)

Monday- March 22, 2021

9:00 AM – Davis, Shanley, McNerney & Nolan families (by James Davis)

Tuesday- March 23, 2021

9:00 AM – Louis Cianca, Sr. (by the Bradshaw family)
 In the missions:
 -James Marrinan (by the McGovern family)

Wednesday- March 24, 2021

9:00 AM –Dot Frein (6th Anniversary in Heaven) (by the Lindeman family)

Thursday- March 25, 2021

9:00 AM – Robert Lazo (by Meg DeRidder)

Friday- March 26, 2021

9:00 AM– Larry Wachter (by Janet Diamond & family)

Saturday- March 27, 2021

5:00 PM –Frank LaBorne (by Carol, Michelle & Greg)
 -Christofer Comito (by Maria Fosso)
 -Barbara Accardi (by Peter & Phyllis Walsh)
 -John Henry (by Margaret & Pat Lavin)
 -Magdalene Cantalupo (by the Cantalupo family)

Sunday- March 28, 2021

8:30 AM – Davis, Shanley, McNerney & Nolan families (by James Davis)
 10:00 AM –Connor Koenig (by the Breen family)
 In the missions:
 -Tony Barilla (by Guiseppe Mercoaliano & family)
 -Richard Ryan (the Johnson family)
 11:30 AM – For the People of the Parish



MEMORIAL BRICKS


We are still accepting orders for the memorial bricks which are being placed in front of the Grotto on the parking lot side of the church. Order forms are available in the church office. The cost of a memorial brick is \$125. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

KING KULLEN RECEIPTS

Please save your register tapes from King Kullen in Garden City Park. 1% of your purchases are donated to the parish. Proceeds from register receipts are forwarded to various charities through the St. Vincent de Paul Conference of Our Lady of Hope.

WE SHARE ONLINE GIVING

Online giving is available at Our Lady of Hope and it's safe, simple and convenient. Please visit olhope.weshareonline.org to get started. The site is very "user friendly", but if you still have questions please do not hesitate to call the church office or WeShare directly at 855 800-4273.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul
...bringing hope for a better future to people in need.

"The St. Vincent DePaul Society is a lay Catholic organization that aspires to live the Gospel by serving the poor. In attending to the needy in our community, we are ministering to Christ himself. If you or someone you know needs assistance, or if you would like to join the ministry, call (516) 334-6288 ext. 18"

2021 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL
 DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Prayer

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we ask that you sanctify us as we embark on this year's Catholic Ministries Appeal.

Thank you, Lord, for unifying us as *One Family in Mission.*

Help us to create pathways of faith so that we can evangelize and provide care and love to one another.

Holy Spirit dwell in us and enable us to joyfully journey together so that we can grow stronger in our faith and lead others to you.

Allow us to continue our call to *dramatic missionary growth* by cheerfully sharing our gifts freely and generously as He does.

Steer us as we put those gifts to good use according to Your will.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Amen.



Courtesy Announcements

The following are published as courtesies for a two-week period as space allows. They are not an endorsement of any functions or persons. If there are any difficulties or problems experienced with any ad, please call the Church Office so that we can remove the ad immediately. We apologize for any typographical errors.

FIRST NOTICE

APARTMENT FOR RENT-furnished or unfurnished. Close to everything, train, bus, shopping, restaurants. 2nd floor walk up, separate entrance. Good for couple or individual. Please call 778-3789 and leave a message if interested.

LOOKING TO RENT GARAGE SPACE-in the Carle Place/Westbury area. If you have available space please call Gerry at 516 997-4425 and leave a message. Your call will be returned.

WWME-To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring virtual marriage experiences. Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God's plan for their marriage and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Registration is limited and different formats/times are available. \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call John & Tori Torio at 718 344-3700 or visit wwmema.org. Thursdays/Mondays April 8-29 or Friday/Saturday/Sunday April 23-25.

SECOND NOTICE

YOUR PRAYERS CAN SAVE LIVES AND CHANGE HEARTS-40 Days for Life is a life-saving prayer campaign that will take place throughout our Diocese across LI which is ongoing through March 28. It is a peaceful initiative consisting of 40 days of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil at abortion facilities and educational outreach with the goal of protecting mothers and their children. To learn more visit 40daysforlife.com or email info@40daysforlife.com or call 1 888 543-3316 for more information. Or contact Paul Monaco, parishioner & member at 997-7043.

TV MASS FOR THE HOMEBOUND-Is someone you love unable to join us at mass on the weekend? For the faithful at home or in healthcare settings, the Heart of the Nation Sunday TV Mass brings spiritual comfort and the blessing of joy-filled hope in our Risen Savior. Please invite anyone you know who cannot get out to church to tune in Catholic Mass of TV or watch online anytime on Sundays at www.HeartoftheNation.org.

RETRouvaille-You Can Help Heal Your Marriage. Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Does talking only make it worse? Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their

marriage. This program has helped thousands of couples worldwide experiencing ALL TYPES of marital difficulties. For confidential information about the Retrouvaille program or to register for the upcoming weekend that begins of Friday, May 14 please call 1 800 470-2230 and you will be connected directly and confidentially to a couple from LI/Metro Retrouvaille who can help.

MEALS ON WHEELS-EAC Network program is available to individuals 60 years and older in Westbury, Carle Place and New Cassel. The basic requirements are; living alone, no longer driving and have a limited support system. 516 539-0150 ext. 219.

STEADFAST CAREGIVERS-provides home companion services to seniors and home-bound adults. Our home care professionals are comprehensively screened, bonded, insured and monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure the highest quality care and companionship. Whether you need care on an hourly or live-in basis, Steadfast Caregivers offers affordable care. We offer a free and confidential in home assessment and are happy to answer any questions. 516 747-0570.



Focus on Religious Freedom

www.cffor.org

Many Churches Ease Restrictions for Holy Week & Easter 2021

Easter, 2020, found most churches in America unconstitutionally closed or restricted for in-person worship. Limiting, or outright prohibiting, in-person religious services was one of the most controversial directives that states made in 2020 in an attempt to slow the coronavirus pandemic. Ten states prohibited church gatherings altogether. Most states implemented guidelines with various levels of restrictions, and 15 states allowed religious gatherings to continue without any limits.

Churchgoers in several of these states fought against orders banning religious services and, in each case, achieved some level of success modifying the restrictions. CA Pastor Tim Thompson said, "The whole idea of separation of church and state is that the state can't run the church. The state can't tell the church what to do." (1)

"In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility - I welcome it." President John F. Kennedy

As we begin Holy Week, 2021, and after many prayerful protests and court cases, the most onerous restrictions have been eased but not altogether rescinded. Each state has developed its own form of control. In Maine, Bishop Robert Deeley is not satisfied with the recently expanded gathering limits to 50 people. He said, "I think that not giving more latitude to people to be able to exercise their Constitutional right to worship is harming them." (2)

The U.S. Supreme Court has struck down restrictions on some religious gatherings in New York and in California, the Court recently granted an appeal from a church that challenged the states restrictions on church services, singing and chanting.

Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote in the most recent case: "Government actors have been moving the goalposts on pandemic-related sacrifices for months, adopting new benchmarks that always seem to put restoration of liberty just around the corner." (3)

