Sacred Heart Church

282 Long Beach Road, Island Park, NY 11558

Email: ship282@verizon.net **Website:** www.sacredheartislandpark.com

Monsignor John J. Tutoné, Pastor

Parish Office 516-432-0655
Ms. Diana Maza, Secretary
Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Religious Education 516-431-7877
Ms. Andrea Caracciolo, Coordinator
Monday through Wednesday 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday & Friday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

Sat. Eve.	5:00 p.m.
Sunday	8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., & 12:15 p.m.
Mon. – Sat.	8:00 a.m.
Holy days	7:00 p.m. evening before 8:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m. of Holy day

Confession

Saturday	4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. and as posted

Baptism

2nd and 4th Sundays at 1:15 p.m.
Pre-register for preparation classes.

Holy Matrimony

Arrangements at least six months in advance

Care of the Sick

Emergency calls anytime. Holy Communion for shut-ins on a weekly basis. Please call to make arrangements.

Devotions

Our Lady of Perpetual Help	
Novena and Adoration	Sat. 3:00 p.m.
Sacred Heart (Mass)	First Friday 7:00 p.m.
Eucharistic Adoration	First Friday 7:30 p.m. -8:30 p.m. Saturday 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Rosary	Mon. – Sat. 7:25 a.m.

Funerals

Arrangements are made through the funeral home. At Sacred Heart, the Mass of Christian Burial is seen as a time of prayer and reflection on the mysteries of death, resurrection, and eternal life. Family remembrances, favorite songs, poems and eulogies are incorporated into the wake service.

Parish Membership

We encourage every Catholic to register with us, use the parish envelopes, and inform us regarding changes of address.

Parish Activities

Adult Instruction (R.C.I.A.), Altar Servers, Altar Society, Choir, Folk Group, Children's Choir, Lectors, Right to Life, Rosary Society, San Gennaro Feast Committee, Ushers, Assistance Program, AA Women's Serenity Wed. 10:30 a.m. and Sat. 8:30 a.m., "No Matter What Club" AA (Nov.-Apr.) Mon.-Sun. 8:15 a.m., "Undercover Group" AA Mon., Wed., Fri. 7:15 p.m. & Sat. 7:30 p.m., Al Anon "Double Winners" Women's Fri. 10:30 a.m.,

Food Pantry Open

Tuesday, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and Friday, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Announced Mass Intentions for The Week of December 7th, 2025

Monday, December 8th
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00
- ✝ **Carmel Caracciolo**
  r/b Andrea Caracciolo
- ✝ **George Hackett, Jr.**
  r/b Pat Hackett
- ✝ **Robert & Mary Maier**
  r/b Family

7:00
- ✝ **Marilyn Berotti**
  r/b Maria Klein
- ✝ **Susan Maher**
  r/b Anne Marie Reap
- ✝ **Helen Anne Lorenz**
  r/b Valerie & Joe Gembecki

Tuesday, December 9th
8:00
- ✝ **Grace Gorgone**
  r/b The Treadway Family

Wednesday, December 10th
8:00
- ✝ **Irma & Rick Tice**
  r/b Barbara Ried

Thursday, December 11th
8:00
- ✝ **Tom Irato**
  r/b Bianca Irato

Friday, December 12th
8:00
- ✝ **Given Intention**

Saturday, December 13th
No 8 AM Mass

9:00 **St. Lucy (Mass in Italian)**
- ✝ **Joseph Comosky**
  r/b David & Maria Kelly
- ✝ **Elizabeth Aurora**
  r/b The Bavaro Family
- ✝ **Denise Vela**
  r/b Phil & Lori Treglia
- ✝ **Geraldine McGann**
  r/b Lucy Volpe

5:00
- ✝ **Steve Ried**
  r/b Barbara Ried
- ✝ **Aida & Alexander Anoschenko**
  r/b Larry & Betty Davies
- ✝ **Anne Gawronski**
  r/b Lucy Volpe

Sunday, December 14th
3rd Sunday of Advent
Gaudate Sunday

8:00
- ✝ **People of the Parish**

10:00
- ✝ **Kevin Ryder**
  r/b The Ryder Family
- ✝ **Thomas Cantone**
  r/b Elizabeth Mastriano
- ✝ **Rose & Anthony Mingione**
  r/b Family

12:15
- ✝ **Andrew Donaghy, Sr.**
  r/b Dorothy Donaghy
- ✝ **Marie Wiltsey**
  r/b Mary Cammarato
- ✝ **Jack Cutrone**
  r/b Maria Iacobellis

"If only we knew how God regards this sacrifice, we would risk our lives to be present at a single Mass." – St. Pio of Pietrelcina

Prayer Before Mass

Father in heaven, we wish to prepare well for participation in this Mass, in which we enter the Last Supper, Passion, Death and Resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. He is as present to us today in his Word and in the Eucharist, as he was with his apostles.

Holy Spirit, please quiet our minds from the busyness and distractions of our day, so that we will have hearts and minds attentive to the words of Jesus and ready to receive his Body and Blood in Holy Communion.

Blessed Mother, take our hearts and give us yours, that like you, we may ponder Jesus' words and do whatever he tells us to do. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, ***Amen****.*

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception,

The patroness of our country, is **Monday Dec. 8th**, **a holy day of obligation.** To attend Mass as a Sunday, the **schedule of Masses** is as follows:

Sunday, Dec. 7th – 7 PM
Monday, Dec. 8th – 8 AM and 7 PM

In 1846 the bishops of the United States asked Mary to watch over our country and its people in a special way. They also chose one particular title and feast of Mary – her Immaculate Conception.

Do you know why a diamond sparkle? The stone is cut so that it acts as a prism, separating light into an array of brilliant colors. In much the same way, Mary's life reflects God's grace and shows us the beautiful privileges and gifts that God gave her.

The title of the Immaculate Conception recognizes Mary's privilege of coming into the world free from sin. Through the power of Jesus' death and resurrection, every human being can be freed from sin at Baptism. Through that same power, Mary was always free of sin, even from the very first moment of her life.

On December 8, the Church celebrates this special privilege given to Mary. At the liturgy we thank God for all the blessings he has given to the people of our country. And we can thank Mary for watching over and protecting our people.

In response to the grace of God, Mary offered to God an obedient, loyal love. She always chose to do God's will. In this, Mary gives us an example of holiness to imitate.

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son, grant we pray, that, as you preserved her from every stain by virtue of the Death of your Son, which you foresaw, so, through her intercession, we, too, may be cleansed and admitted to your presence. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, you Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Devotions to Our Lady of Perpetual Help & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at Sacred Heart Church Saturday's at 3:00 p.m.

Daily Rosary

The **Rosary** is recited **in the Church**
Monday through Saturday mornings at **7:25 AM.**
All are welcome to come and pray!

Feast Days Celebrated this week:

Dec. 7th	**2nd Sunday of Advent**
Dec. 8th	**Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception** *(Holy Day of Obligation)*
Dec. 9th	**St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin**
Dec. 10th	**Our Lady of Loreto**
Dec. 11th	**St. Damasus I, Pope**
Dec. 12th	**Our Lady of Guadalupe**
Dec. 13th	**St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr**
Dec. 14th	**3rd Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday**

Sacred Heart Food Pantry

As Christmas approaches, some of our families in Island Park benefit from **food gift cards** donated to the Pantry. The cards enable those in need to purchase **"fresh perishable" items** which we cannot stock in our pantry.

If you would wish to donate, please obtain cards from local food stores in denominations of **$25 or less**. You can drop the cards in the Sunday collection (we will know what they are there for) or drop them off at the Parish Office. Thank you!

Our heartfelt gratitude

Sacred Heart Church extends our heartfelt gratitude to the heroes of the **Island Park Fire Department** for their assistance in hanging the lights atop our Church last evening. Soon, our Church will shine with thousands of beautiful lights, a radiant reminder that Christ is the Light of the world. We are grateful for all our volunteer firefighters do for this community. St. Florian, protect them always.

Religious Education

7th Grade Registration for
Class year 2025-2026 will be
in January with Fr. Tutoné.

Schedule of Religious Ed Classes this week:
(Meet in Parish Center)

Grade 1 – Monday, Dec. 8th, **NO CLASSES**
Grade 2 – Wednesday, Dec. 3rd,
4 PM to 5 PM –
Grade 3 – Tuesday, Dec. 9th, 4 PM to 5 PM
Grade 4 – Tuesday, Dec. 9th, 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM
Grade 5 – Wed., Dec. 10th, 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM
Grade 6 – Mon., Dec. 8th, **NO CLASSES**

Any questions, please contact: ***Ms. Andrea*** at (516) 431-7877.

Class of 2025/2026

1st & 6th Grade
Class / Mass
December 7th, 2025
10 AM in Church.
Please arrive a few minutes early to sign-in.

Parents, please plan to attend with your child. We look forward to seeing you there.

Heart of Jesus,
Son of the Eternal Father
Almighty and eternal God,
may we never cease to
love and serve You.

Looking for Volunteers for 2026 San Gennaro Feast

The **56th Annual San Gennaro Feast** is **September 10-13, 2026**.

- **Volunteers:** Ages 15 and Up
- Flexible Scheduling
  Around your Availability

- Before the Feast – Set up, Cooking
- During the Feast – Work in Booths
- After the Feast – Clean Up

Contact Denise Ruscio
Call/Text: 516-852-0122
Email: deniseruscio@gmail.com

White Elephant Sale

Smaller Area – Same Great Treasures

Sacred Heart Parish Center

Wednesdays 5 PM to 7 PM

Saturdays & Sundays 12 PM to 4 PM

Sacred Heart Parish Center, 301 Long Beach Road, Island Park, NY

The Saint Nicholas Society

In past years, your participation in this effort provided gifts for those who would otherwise have received nothing for Christmas. **The Franciscan Friars of the Renewal** run St. Anthony Shelter for Renewal which is dedicated to the ongoing work of renewal of the whole person. The Shelter is a safe haven for single men over 18 who are homeless in the New York metropolitan area and who are personally committed to taking the necessary steps for healing and recovery.

They have asked **only for Men's sweat pants, sizes: small, medium, large and extra-large.**

Please bring the gift, and if possible wrapped and labeled, to the Parish Center by **Wednesday, December 17th**.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

St. Lucy (d. 304)

Do you remember the parable of the bridegroom to come? It is told in the Gospel, Matthew 24:1-13. The bridesmaids brought oil lamps to light their way, but only five wise ones carried flasks of oil for refills. The ones who were able to keep the light burning were permitted to enter the wedding banquet with the bridegroom; the others were left out in the dark.

Lucy, who name means "light," kept the light of her faith burning and now enjoys the eternal wedding banquet of heaven.

Lucy was a young woman who was martyred for being a Christian. She died at Syracuse in Sicily during the persecution of Roman emperor Diocletian. The fact that she is mentioned in Eucharistic Prayer I of the Mass indicates the great respect that the Church has for her.

One story about Lucy portrays her as a young Christian who struggled against the pagan influences of her friends and of society. Because of her deep love for Jesus, Lucy vowed to remain unmarried. When the man she was engaged to marry found out, he reported her to the government for the crime of being a Christian. She then had the opportunity to prove her faithfulness to Christ by giving her life for him.

Lucy's feast is celebrated during the season of Advent, when we wait for the coming of Christ our Light. Various customs have developed around her feast. In Scandinavian countries young girls dress in white dresses with red sashes, symbolizing victory, and wear crowns of candles on their heads. In Sweden the girls dressed as Lucy carry rolls and cookies in procession as songs are sung. A Hungarian custom is to plant a few grains of wheat n a small pot on St. Lucy's feast. By Christmas there will be little green sprouts – signs of life coming from death. It symbolizes the fact that, like Lucy, we enter new life an eternal wedding feast – when we die.

Perhaps because Lucy's name means "light," she is the patron of eyes.

"Those whose hearts are pure
are temples of the Holy Spirit." – St. Lucy

Reminder: St. Lucy Mass

Saturday, December 13th we're celebrating the ***Feast of St. Lucy***. **Mass is at 9 AM, in Italian**.
No 8 AM Mass.

National Retirement Fund for Religious Collection

Your donation works for aging religious. "I read that roughly 95 percent of donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious aid senior religious," a donor writes. "That's wonderful when we truly want our donations to *work*." Your gift works for elderly religious by helping to furnish medications, nursing care and more.

Please support **next week's** collection for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**, and give to those who have given a lifetime.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Pope Leo XIV has called on those serving the Church to be missionary disciples, actively sharing their faith and the love of Christ and the Gospel with others.

Our retired Religious Sisters and Brothers and Religious Priests have exemplified this call.

They have served the Lord, and through their vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, have witnessed to the power, beauty, and joy of the Gospel. We have seen their example and have been the beneficiaries of their service and witness within our parishes, schools, and ministries.

Our Religious Sisters and Brothers and Religious Priests have done so much for us, and now, we called to do something for them.

May I ask that you remember them in your prayers, and may I also humbly ask that you make a gift to the Religious Retirement Fund to help care for them in their time of need?

Thank you for your time, generosity, and consideration in helping to support those who have given so much to our faith community.

Sincerely in Christ,

+John O. Barres

Most Reverend John O. Barres

From the Pastor's Desk

This Thanksgiving Day, our parish once again opened the doors of our Parish Center to welcome our entire community for our annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner.

We shared a full traditional Thanksgiving meal, lovingly prepared and donated by our generous parishioners, including the delicious desserts enjoyed by all.

Before the meal, Monsignor John Tutone, our pastor, offered heartfelt words and a prayer, reminding us that true gratitude begins with recognizing God's blessings.

It was a beautiful day filled with the simple grace of sharing a table together. Thank you to all who helped make this special event a success!

NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

Amazing Eucharistic Miracles

The Vision of the Madonna in Guadalupe, Mexico and the Eucharist

GUADALUPE

MEXICO, 1531

The indisputable history of the Eucharist and the Incarnation of the Son of God, "Flesh of Christ, flesh of Mary", says Saint Augustine. The Church "contemplates Mary with joy in the purest image - that which she desires and hopes to be in her entirety" (SC, 103): tabernacle, womb, pyx. The Madonna appeared in Guadalupe dressed in a gown fastened at the waist with a black belt, identical to that worn by the local women during pregnancy.

At dawn on December 9, 1531, the young Indian, Juan Diego, went up the hills of Tepeyac, in the northern outskirts of the City of Mexico, heading towards Tlatelolco, for his usual catechism lesson. Suddenly he heard a soft song and turned towards the source of this sound. He came upon a young woman wearing a shiny dress, who revealed herself to be the Virgin Mary. The Madonna begged Juan Diego to ask the bishop of the capital city to build a temple in the place where she appeared so that all can come to honor her son Jesus. Juan Diego obeyed, but the Bishop Juan de Zumárraga did not believe him and asked him to ask Mary for a sign. When the Virgin appeared the third time to Juan Diego, she promised to give him a sign the following day. On Monday however he did not go to his appointment because his uncle fell gravely ill, so much so that he needed to receive the Last Rites. The next day, Juan Diego went out very early directly to Tlatelolco, where he wanted to look for a priest for his uncle. He decided to avoid the hills of Tepeyac, so he would not encounter Our Lady, but she met him during his walk. He then confided in her about his pain and she asked him to have faith in her and announced the cure of his uncle. Then she asked him to go to the top of the hill and collect and bring her any flowers that he could find.

Juan Diego went to the place she told him and found it covered with marvelous roses and other flowers, unusual for the winter season and the arid nature of the land. He picked them and put them in his tilma, a typical apron worn by the Aztec farmers, and he took them to the Virgin who told him to take the flowers to the bishop as proof of the apparition. The man did as he was asked and went to Mexico City where, after a long wait, he was seen by the prelate. He showed him the tilma and when he spread it out the roses and other flowers fell and on it appeared a blazing image of the Madonna. The Bishop fell to his knees before this miracle. He marveled, and repenting he asked the Virgin to forgive him for his defiance. Then he took the tilma and put it in a chapel. The next day Juan Diego returned home anxious to see his uncle, who he had left in grave condition. Juan Diego found his uncle completely recovered and he told him about the Madonna and how she appeared to him the day before presenting herself as the Holy Mary of Guadalupe, announcing he would be cured.

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2025

To the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre:

Merry Christmas!

Throughout this year, we have marked many significant milestones in the life of the Church leading us to the Lord's Nativity and this holy season of Christmas, most especially the passing of Pope Francis at Easter and the election of Pope Leo XIV in May.

What a gift it has been to walk these months with our new Holy Father, to learn from his teaching, and witness his example.

On October 4th, the Memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi, Pope Leo released his first Apostolic Exhortation, *Dilexit Te - I Have Loved You*. It is a profound meditation on love for the poor and speaks powerfully to the mystery of the Lord's Birth and the grace of this season.

The Holy Father reminds us: "The Gospel shows us that poverty marked every aspect of Jesus' life. From the moment he entered the world, Jesus knew the bitter experience of rejection. The Evangelist Luke tells how Joseph and Mary, who was about to give birth, arrived in Bethlehem, and then adds, poignantly, that 'there was no place for them in the inn' (*Lk* 2:7). Jesus was born in humble surroundings and laid in a manger; then, to save him from being killed, they fled to Egypt (cf. *Mt* 2:13-15). At the dawn of his public ministry, after announcing in the synagogue of Nazareth that the year of grace which would bring joy to the poor was fulfilled in him, he was driven out of town (cf. *Lk* 4:14-30). He died as an outcast, led out of Jerusalem to be crucified (cf. *Mk* 15:22). Indeed, that is how Jesus' poverty is best described: he experienced the same exclusion that is the lot of the poor, the outcast of society. Jesus is a manifestation of this *privilegium pauperum*. He presented himself to the world not only as a poor Messiah, but also as the Messiah of and for the poor." (n. 19)

Before these words of Pope Leo, we recall the wonderful truth: Christ became poor so that we who are poor might become rich (cf. 2 Cor. 8:9). This is the good news of Christmas. We are not alone. We are not left to ourselves. A Savior has come - Christ the Lord.

As we celebrate the Christmas season, we remember with Pope Leo that "Christian holiness often flourishes in the most forgotten and wounded places of humanity." (n. 76)

How beautifully the followers of Christ have responded to the cry of the poor and looked with love upon the most vulnerable among us. As we rejoice in Christ's Birth, we renew our commitment to love others as he has loved us.

Post Office Box 9023, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-9023 • phone 516.678.5800 • fax 516.678.3138 • bishopsoffice@drvc.org

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

On Sunday, December 28th at the Cathedral of Saint Agnes, on the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we will conclude our Jubilee Year of Hope.

We thank both Pope Francis and Pope Leo XIV for igniting hope within our families, the global mission of the Church, and the human family, and we contemplate the light and grace that radiates from the refugee Holy Family (73) and that radiates to every family.

Our Catholic biblical and sacramental worship, especially at the Catholic Mass, focuses and ignites both our global mission to the poor (n. 42) and our humble openness to being evangelized by the poor (n. 102), the treasures of our Church (n. 38).

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

May the Light and love of the Christ Child animate and guide our global Catholic missionary spirit this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Sincerely in Christ,
+ John O. Barres
Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

Catholic Mom

FAMILY ACTIVITY PAGE
2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
THE PREACHING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST
MATTHEW 3:1-12

Y	L	V	B	G	B	U	M	B	R	A	H	F	J	D	F	U	Y	D	G
Z	C	B	X	M	B	S	Z	S	S	L	U	V	N	U	S	J	K	Y	H
M	G	H	I	E	D	Q	S	P	C	H	S	T	P	R	S	H	O	U	E
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H	I	N	Q	U	F	I	S	C	Y	C	I	E	L	E	P	R	K	R	T
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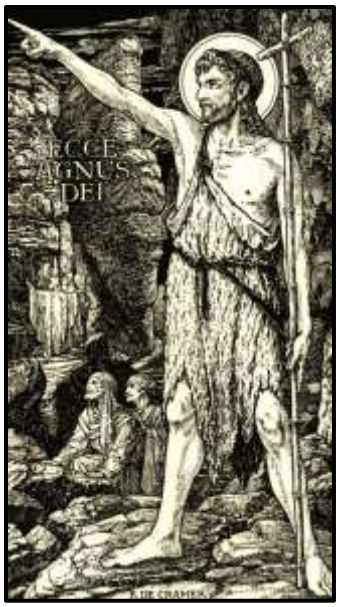
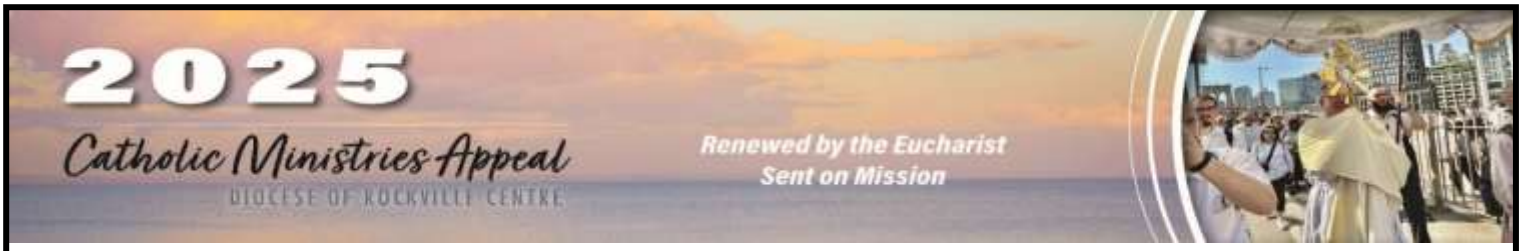


BAPTIZE	ISAIAH	LOCUST	WATER
FIRE	JOHN	REPENT	WILD HONEY
GOSPEL	JORDAN	SALVATION	
HOLY SPIRIT	JUSTICE	SINS	



The Eucharistic Revival has enkindled a missionary fire in the hearts of the American faithful. Going out on Mission - for the life of the World is the most important phase, where we go out and share the love of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist to transform the world.

Faith is alive in our parishes and schools, soup kitchens and housing programs, on street corners and in churches. It is lived through people of all backgrounds, from every neighborhood. People everywhere come together to support one another.

It is in this spirit that the Catholic Ministries Appeal exists: to bring support and build strong communities through faith and your generosity. Every year, the annual Catholic Appeal provides us an opportunity to realize the difference we can make when we act together in God's love.

Please consider joining us again this year by making a gift to the 2025 Catholic Ministries Appeal.

100% of every dollar raised is restricted to fund the objectives, programs, and mission supported by the Catholic Ministries Appeal.

✂----------

2025 Catholic Ministries Appeal

P.O. Box 4000 ● Rockville Centre, New York 11571-4000 ● DRVC.org/CMA/

Please make checks payable to: *Catholic Ministries Appeal*. ***CMA ID#:*** _____

Parish **(027) Sacred Heart Island Park** Total Pledge: $_____

Name _____ Down payment: $_____

Address _____ Balance: $_____

City, State, Zip: _____ Email: _____

Mobile Phone: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

All pledges must be received by December 31st and final payment is due January 31, 2026.

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

THANK YOU for sharing your blessings with others!

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