

# St. Sylvester Catholic Church

6464 Gulf Breeze Pkwy  
Gulf Breeze, FL 32563  
850-939-3020  
[www.stsyly.org](http://www.stsyly.org)



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Any employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee who works with children, elderly or the infirm, must be fingerprinted, have a background check and attend workshops on Abuse Prevention and Safe Environment. Please call the parish office for information.

## Welcome to the St. Sylvester Parish Community!

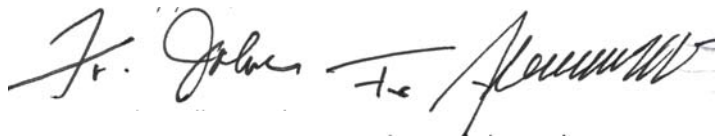
We welcome you to our faith filled community. It will not take long to discover that this family is rich in faith and is sincere in developing caring relationships.

We want to get to know you. We are excited to share with you the marvelous ways Christ and the Holy Spirit work in our parish. We have many spiritual opportunities for you to grow in the Lord.

Your time and talents are needed to serve on the many ministries and committees within our Parish. We need you to share what you can with others in the St. Sylvester Faith Community.

Please let us know if we can assist you in any way. We look forward to serving you in Christ's name. Together we will walk in faith to serve the Lord.

Very sincerely,



*Father John Kelly, Father Álvaro Pio González  
and The Welcome Committee*



## Church Information

Pastor—Father John F. Kelly  
Parochial Vicar—Father Álvaro Pio González

### Mass Schedule

Mon, Wed & Fri Daily Mass	8:30 a.m.
Tue & Thur Daily Mass	6:00 p.m.
Saturday Vigil	4:00 p.m.
Sunday	9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Spanish Mass	5:00 p.m.
Holy Days	Check Bulletin

### Nocturnal Eucharistic Adoration

First Friday	7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
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### Rosary

First Saturday	8:30 a.m.
First Sunday	8:30 a.m.

### Reconciliation

Saturday	3:00-3:30 p.m. (or by appointment)
Spanish, Sunday	4:00-4:30 p.m. (or by appointment)

### Church Website

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

### Parish Office

Phone: (850) 939-3020  
Fax: (850) 936-5366

### Office Hours

Monday—Thursday	9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
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*I urge then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.*

*1 Timothy 2:1-2*

## St. Sylvester Parish Staff

### Pastor

Father John F. Kelly

### Parochial Vicar

Father Álvaro Pio González

### Deacon

Deacon Charles Sukup

### Staff (Paid and Volunteer)

Parish Administrator: Mark Burson

Parish Administrative Assistant: Mary Ann Kurtz

Hispanic Administrative Assistant: Consuelo Floyd

Sacristan: Jan Duarte

Facilities: Mario Diaz

Facilities: Chuck Kort

Director of Religious Education: Sandy Nicholas

Adult Faith Formation: Dan Wade

Life Teen Coordinator: Nancy Barrett

Edge Coordinator: Eileen Eley

Rock Coordinator: Erica Meyer

Music Director: Connie Smith

Nursery: Deb Peterson, Eileen Eley

Kitchen Coordinator: Terri Gambera

*If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.*

*1 Peter 4:11-12*

## Sacraments

**Baptism:** Classes in English are provided the 2nd Sunday of each month from 3:00-4:30 p.m. for parents seeking the sacrament of Baptism for their children. Classes in Spanish are provided on the 1st and 2nd Thursday of each month.

**Reconciliation:** Confessions are heard in English on Saturdays from 3:00-3:30 p.m. and in English and Spanish on Sundays from 4:00-4:30 p.m. or by appointment. Children prepare for First Reconciliation in religious education classes during their 2nd grade year. Older children may attend a special course to prepare.

**First Eucharist:** Children prepare for their First Eucharist in religious education classes during their 2nd grade year. Older children attend a special course to prepare. Children must have at least one year of Religious Education prior to enrolling in the First Eucharist Preparation Program.

**Confirmation:** Youth wishing to be confirmed attend class during or after their 9th grade year.

**Marriage:** Weddings are celebrated throughout the year. In order to ensure proper sacramental preparation, parishioners should contact the office at least six months in advance.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Parishioners or their family members may request this sacrament at any time in order to ensure proper sacramental preparation. The parish office should be notified of parishioners experiencing a serious illness, whether in the home, hospital or assisted living facility.

**Sacraments for Shut-ins:** Upon request, an Extraordinary Minister will provide the Eucharist for parishioners unable to attend Mass.

*For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

## Liturgical Ministries

**Altar Servers:** Altar servers assist the priest during the Celebration of the Eucharist. Youth who wish to become servers must have completed the 3rd grade, made their First Holy Communion and be enrolled in religious education classes. Training is required to become a server.

**Extraordinary Ministers:** This ministry is composed of members of the parish who have a desire to serve their community and lead with their Christian lifestyle. Training is required prior to becoming an extraordinary minister.

**Lectors:** Parishioners proclaim the Word of the Lord during Mass and lead the Prayers of the Faithful. Training is required prior to becoming a lector.

**Music/Choir:** These members of our parish prepare the liturgical music for the Mass. They attend weekly rehearsals with the intention of enhancing the liturgical experience. New members are welcome to participate in praising God through song. Instrumentalists are also welcome.

**Ushers:** Ushers aid the faith community at Mass by welcoming the congregation, assisting people to their seats, collecting offerings, directing people to Communion, and distributing bulletins at the end of each Mass. They also assist individuals with special needs. Both men and women, high school age or older, are welcome to serve as ushers.

**Acolytes:** Adult Catholic men assist the Priest and other ministers in the preparation for and celebration of Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. A period of preparation is required for this ministry.

*God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given to us.*  
*Romans 5:5*

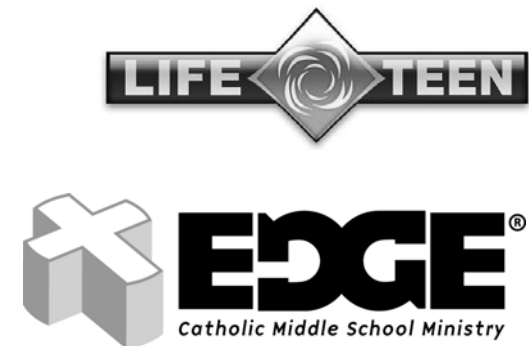
## Religious Education Ministry

**Children's Liturgy of the Word:** Children ages 4-6 meet during the Liturgy of the Word at the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday Masses.

**ROCK (Religious Orientation for Catholic Kids—1st -5th Grade):** Classes are conducted by volunteer teachers and assistants, for the 1st through 5th grade. They meet Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:15 p.m. during the school year.

**Edge (Middle School):** A Core Team of volunteers provides a weekly dynamic religious education program for the middle school youth. EDGE meets on Sundays at 12:15p.m.

**Life Teen (High School):** A Core Team of volunteers provides an exciting religious education and social program for the high school youth of the parish. Life Teen meets on Sundays at 3p.m.



*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.*

*Colossians 3:23*

## Fraternal Organizations

**Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA):** A team of parish volunteers share their faith with those interested in discerning whether or not to become a Catholic. Basic instruction in the sacraments and the Catholic faith is shared and discussed so individual can make an informed decision. RCIA is available in Spanish. Call the office for date, time and location.

**Rite of Christian Initiation for Children (RCIC/RCIT):** A team of volunteers instructs older children/youth in preparation for the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and First Reconciliation.

**Adult Faith Formation:** Throughout the year, faith based courses are offered for adults ages 18 and above. Lay volunteers, along with structured course material are used to enhance spiritual development for every walk of life at whatever place an individual may be on their faith journey. Depending on what peaks your interest or time limitations you may have, come investigate how we can meet your needs. All classes are advertised in our Sunday bulletin or you can call the office to find out course title, dates and times.

**Women's Bible Study:** This group unites women committed to deepening their faith through prayer and study of the Scripture. The group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. at the church. It's a great way to make some new friends to share in faith!

### Volunteer Power....

These dynamic weekly programs are sustained with the power of large teams of parish volunteers. Become a catechist or an assistant and share your faith with the children of our parish. To offer your assistance or for further information, please contact the Religious Education Office: 850-939-3020

*Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it.*  
*Proverbs 22:6*

**Knights of Columbus:** The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic men's fraternal benefit society for men 18 years and older that was formed to render financial aid to members and their families. Mutual aid and assistance are offered to sick, disabled and needy members and their families. Social and intellectual fellowship is promoted among members and their families through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief and public relief works.

**Columbiettes:** The Columbiettes is a group of Catholic women dedicated to promoting spirituality, charity, fraternity and patriotism. Their projects focus on benefiting the church, charities and the community at large, as well as aiding the Knights of Columbus when needed. All Catholic women 17 years of age or older may join and do not need to have a relative in the Knights of Columbus.

**Rosary Makers Guild (Ministry of Columbiettes):** The goal of the Guild is to teach individuals, adults and children, how to make rosaries and to provide free cord rosaries to missions of the Church, at home and abroad. Meetings are on 2nd Mondays at 9:15 p.m. in the Activity Center.

**Hospice (Ministry of Columbiettes):** Ladies of the parish gather every second Wednesday of the month. We cut, sew, make cards, tag, knit and crochet to make hats, hand warmers, walker bags, greeting cards, neck pillows, hand pillows, wheel chair blankets and house slippers. All of the items are tagged and given to Covenant Hospice and parishioners who need them. Every skill level can contribute to this worthy project. Every one is welcome!

*I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.*

*Philippians 4:12-13*

## Pastoral Ministries

**Bereavement:** The purpose of the Bereavement Ministry is to represent the Parish of St. Sylvester by extending sympathy, supporting the bereaved. A Bereavement Minister attends the visitation and funerals. There is a Mass of Remembrance with candlelight ceremony each November.

**Prayer Chain:** All are welcome to join the Columbiettes prayer chain, as a prayer warrior. Several hundred parishioners are notified via our prayer group to pray for family and friends during times of great challenges

**Golden Girls:** This is a hospitality ministry made up of dedicated retired women who serve God, parishioners and the community at a variety of functions.



*Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:16*

**Nocturnal Eucharistic Adoration:** Parishioners deepen their faith through Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Adoration times are scheduled on First Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

**Nursery:** Nursery care is available for your children from toddlers to age 5 during the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses on Sunday. Nursery staff provide safe, fun care so that parents can fully participate in the Mass.

**Pastoral Council:** A representative group of the parish community consults with and informs the Pastor concerning administration of the parish. The Council meets on a regular basis. The Pastor is president of the Council. The Parish Administrator facilitates the agenda and organization of the Council.

**Lit'l Saints Play Group:** The Lit'l Saints is a play group for pre-school children and their parents. Meetings are each Tuesday from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

**Habitat for Humanity (Ministry of Knights of Columbus):** Habitat for Humanity (HfH) is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. HfH seeks to eliminate poverty housing and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Habitat invites people from all walks of life to work together in partnership to help build houses with families in need. In its five year joint history with HfH, St. Sylvester has assisted in building many homes and is currently raising funds for their next house.

*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice Hospitality.* *Romans 12:12-13*

## Pastoral Committees

**Coffee and Donuts:** This committee sets up and serves coffee and donuts after the weekend Masses. Volunteers may choose the Mass at which they wish to serve. This is a wonderful family ministry and a great way to meet fellow parishioners.

**Finance:** This committee assesses church finances, recommends annual budget, and monitors and reports the financial status. Members must have experience in accounting and financial bookkeeping.



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*He helps us in all our troubles, so that we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God. Just as we have a share in Christ's many sufferings, so also through Christ we share in God's great help.*

*2 Corinthians 1:4-7*

**Hispanic Ministry:** The Hispanic Ministry is the Church's response to the Hispanic presence. The general objective calls the faithful to promote the unity of the Body of Christ and its mission through faith communities and Catholic organizations by the following pastoral priorities.

- a. To welcome all the baptized community
- b. To reach out to non-involved baptized community
- c. To affirm and promote cultural identity
- d. To celebrate faith
- e. To promote and be an example of justice
- f. To invite and provide formation
- g. To build faith communities

*By Encuentro y Mision A Renewed Pastoral Framework for Hispanic Ministry (USCCB)*

Our parish offers Ministries for Couples, prayer groups, Experience in Christ for Young Adults, Sacraments Bible Study, Leader Formation, Music Ministry, Ministry for Seniors.

**El Ministerio Hispano:** El Ministerio Hispano es la respuesta a la Iglesia a la presencia hispana. El objetivo general llama a los fieles a vivir y promover la unidad del cuerpo de Cristo y de su misión, por medio de comunidades de fe y de organizaciones católicas a través de las siguientes prioridades pastorales:

- a. Recibir y acoger a los bautizados.
- b. Fomentar el acercamiento
- c. Afirmar y promover la identidad cultural
- d. Celebrar la fe
- e. Fomentar y ser ejemplo de justicia
- f. Invitar y proveer formación de líderes
- g. Construir comunidades de fe

*Tomado de Encuentro y Misión United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)*

Nuestra parroquia ofrece Pastoral de Parejas, Renovación Conyugal, Grupos de oración, Experiencia en Cristo para jóvenes, Sacramentos, Estudio de Biblia, Formación de Líderes, Ministerio de Música, Grupo de la Tercera Edad.

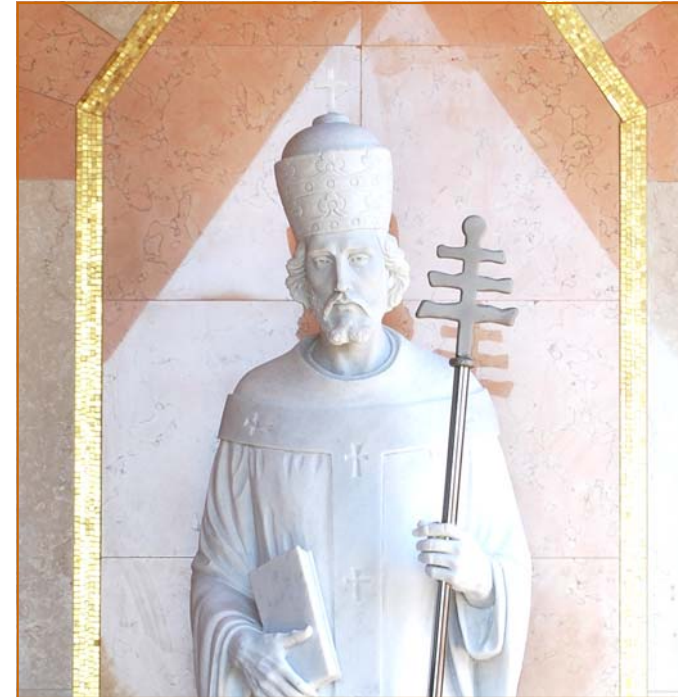
**RICA (Rito de Iniciación para Católicos Adultos):** ¿Conoces verdaderamente tu fe católica? ¿Te bautizaron pero necesitas confirmación o comunión? ¿Quieres ser católico? Te invitamos a que participes de esta jornada de fe y un proceso de conversión para que descubras lo que la Iglesia Católica te ofrece a través de las escrituras y la tradición, el regalo de los 7 sacramentos, la Biblia, el Catecismo y mucho más para que recibas una experiencia de comunidad vibrante, imitadora de Cristo como reto para toda la vida. ¡Inscríbete ya en nuestras oficinas!

**Clases de Biblia:** La Biblia es el alimento para la vida del alma mediante la cual Dios revela su palabra. Hoy como católicos estamos llamados a una lectura inteligente y espiritual de la Biblia. Abre pues tu corazón y tu mente, ven y participa de una bella aventura donde meditarás el mensaje que Dios te ha regalado para ponerlo en práctica cada día iniciar una relación con tu Creador. Sólo entonces puede la palabra ser “viva y eficaz”.  
(*Hebreos 4:12*) ¡Regístrate ya en nuestra oficina!

**Grupo de la Tercera Edad:** El ministerio Siempre Así te ofrece un punto de encuentro social fascinante donde se entrelazan los poemas de amor, una taza de café, la contagiable alegría, los instantes de diversión, la pasión por la sabiduría, y el loco deseo de un crecimiento espiritual en busca de lograr la belleza en el Señor. Solo tiene un requisito: que seas mayor de 55 años y quieras seguir **Siempre Así!** ¡Llámanos ya!

**Grupo de Oración Luz y Vida:** Vengan a compartir lo que nuestros hermanos los apóstoles enseñaban cuando comenzó nuestra Iglesia, para que unidos como hermanos en alabanza demos cumplimiento a la promesa de Jesús: “Donde dos o tres se reúnan en mi nombre, Yo estaré en medio de ellos”. (*Mt. 18-20*)

**Pastoral de Parejas:** Escápate a vivir momentos salpicados de diversión, emoción, y risas. Sumérgete en las burbujas del amor y permite que el Señor te revele la gracia sanadora que tu cuerpo, tu mente y tu espíritu necesitan para fortalecer tu relación de pareja. Es una oportunidad única que no te la debes perder. ¡Llámanos ya!



## Pope Sylvester I

St. Sylvester assumed the papacy in 314 and guided the church for the next twenty-one years. As Pope, Sylvester led the faithful after Emperor Constantine's Edict of Milan. The Edict directed acceptance of the church throughout the empire. Pope Sylvester fostered the faith by instituting over 300 laws concerning justice, equity and evangelical purity. He also directed the construction of churches in Rome.

It is inspiring and edifying that we in South Santa Rosa County have such a model of faith, social justice and good works as our patron saint. Before Pope Sylvester died in 335 he had laid the foundation for the church's expansion throughout the world. When he was canonized, Saint Sylvester was the first person who was not a martyr to be honored as a saint.