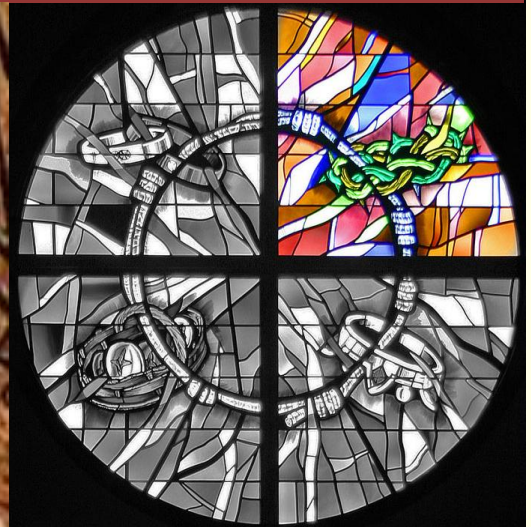


Compassion . . .



St. Elizabeth
lovingly tends
the sick and dying.

Although her brief life is not without sorrow and suffering, Elizabeth has a particular capacity to find joy and serenity in the midst of her personal trials. But it is in the suffering of others that she is able to see the crucified Christ.

Like St. Francis of Assisi, the gift of **compassion** enables Elizabeth to recognize Jesus in the marginalized of society – including lepers, the sick and the dying. She builds a hospital and she personally cares for many.

Faithfulness ❖ Charity ❖ **Compassion** ❖ Humility ❖ Prayer

Compassion...Service to the sick and dying

Just as St. Elizabeth of Hungary is noted for her gentleness and her heartfelt concern for all those in need, so too the parishioners of our parish community have exemplified this charism of our patron saint.



Fr. Kane & Tony Giambalvo

One of the first initiatives when the parish opened in 1962 was to start our own chapter of the **St. Vincent de Paul Society**. The original three members were Anthony Bundrick, Joseph Delaney and David Yates. The early meetings were held in the home of Harold and Louise Noble on Wolf Hill Road.



The presidents of the Society have been Ray Murphy, George Pepino and Al Ruenes.



Mission Bound
Two members of the Martha's of the Blue Cross Circles, assisted by the Rev. John R. Moore right, curate at St. Elizabeth's parish, South Huntington, ready the first shipment of powdered milk, soap, medicine and bandages destined for Catholic missions. Mrs. Andrew Ball, left, of the South Huntington Chapter, loads one vehicle, while Mrs. Mildred Keeler of the Northport Chapter puts the cartons in another.

In 2010, the St. Vincent de Paul Society concluded its years of service in our parish. From the Society sprang the most recent ministry to demonstrate our patroness' compassion, the **Drivers**.



James Miley, Suzanne Flood (chair)

In 2011, Suzanne Flood accepted the Pastoral Team's invitation to coordinate the work that had been handled by the St. Vincent DePaul Society for so many years. Parishioners who need assistance especially with medical appointments are assigned a fellow parishioner to get them there and back safely.



Sally Tomei, Lillian Sharkey, Betty Vasta (chair), Molly Pepino



When our parish was founded in 1962, there were two facilities that served the elderly: the **Birchwood Nursing Home (now called Apex)** and **Eagle's Rest** on New York Avenue in South Huntington. The priests of the parish celebrated mass on Thursday afternoons in the Birchwood dining room. At the same time four women of our parish, including Jean Wendell and Kay Brady, were going weekly to both facilities. These women prayed the rosary and visited with the residents.



Agnes Schnieder, Florence Flynn, Joseph Cheslok, Molly Pepino, Lillian Sharkey, Betty Vasta, Nicholas Montanino, Anita Dos Santos, Thelma Spitzli, Lorraine Biondo (2002)



Mary Alice DelliCarpini, Jane McAuley, Peg Schroeder, Bette Lagueux, Joan Pollock (chair)



In 1979 a new assisted care facility opened on Beverly Road (where Beverly School had been). It was first called Huntington Lodge, later called **Atria Huntington**. That same year, the **Senior Quarters** ministry began, which included service to Atria and Birchwood. Bulletins were distributed and the ministers would also conduct an Ash Wednesday service.



The third facility that receives pastoral care from St. Elizabeth parish was opened in 2003, called **Sunrise Assisted Living** in Dix Hills.



Deacon John Failla, Una DeGeorge

All of these facilities now have weekly Eucharistic services and distribution of Communion is overseen by our Eucharistic ministers.

The Catholic Church opened Eucharistic ministry to lay people in 1973 and St. Elizabeth parish responded to this new way of service. At this time the **Eucharistic Ministry to the Homebound** began in order for many more parishioners to receive Holy Communion in their homes.



Front Row: Deacon Joe Mercolino (coordinator), Carol Huber, Jean Wendell, Lillian Sharkey, Molly Pepino, Phyllis Verdolino, Patricia Delaney, Anita DosSantos; Back Row: Art Frisenda, Jane McAuley, Chris Reilly, Una DeGeorge, Donna Arnone, Richard Diem

Eucharistic ministry to the sick expanded in 1996 when St. Elizabeth parish joined with six other Huntington area parishes to serve one day a week at **Huntington Hospital**. On Saturdays, our Eucharistic Ministers (EMs) bring the Eucharist to Catholic patients at the Hospital. These EMs receive special diocesan training in order to offer support and spiritual strength to those who are sick.



Front Row: Msgr. Frank Schneider, Pat Dillon, Ann Dolan, John Michalisin, Gloria Lambert, John Servinskas, Jane McAuley, Mary Ann Oniewiski; Back Row: Laura Morelli, Barbara Mayer, Irene Barrett, George Richardson, Joyce Furman, John Toohey (chair), Donna Arnone, Ignacio Meneses, Mary Alice DelliCarpini, Anita DosSantos

Around 1980, the diocesan program called **Rainbows**, which reached out to children who had suffered a loss, was begun as a home-based program led by Lillian Sharkey and Pat Delaney.



Maura Dahnken, Fran Telford



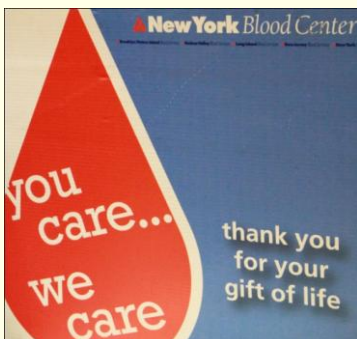
Joanne Durso (chair), Fran Telford, Patti Olsen

In 1997, a new **Bereavement Support Group** began which reached out to adults. Fran Telford, who had completed the diocesan Pastoral Formation Institute, led this new group which met in a Parish Center classroom and later in the Spiritual Life Center. Leaders over the years have included Maura Dahnken, Joanne Durso, Pattie Olsen and Irene Schuler.



Irene Schuler, Lisa Distante, Ron Distante (chair), Tom Franco, Marie Sagel

In the early part of 1990, Rosemary Roggenkamp began the parish-based **Blood Drive**. Rosemary was dedicated to this ministry for many years followed by Leo Tavera, and most recently, Ron Distante.



In September of 1992 the **Bereavement Ministry** began. Today it is called **Consolation**. Parishioners were trained to visit the homes of those who lost a loved one, help them plan the funeral liturgy, conduct a wake service and be present at the funeral mass. When the ministry began there were close to 40 members. Some of these “founders” continue to serve today, including Carmela Barreca, Charlie Kerner, Molly Pepino, Lillian Sharkey, Maureen Teresky and Ed Vasta.



Marian Ambrosiano, Sheila Pio (chair), Carmela Barreca, Jean Wendell, Lillian Sharkey, Ed Vasta, Molly Pepino, Maureen Teresky

In June of 2004, Midge Thompson represented the parish when the Huntington Family Service League began a new initiative that involved local congregations. The **Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative (HIHI)** began that winter and Midge oversaw our parish's involvement for the next six years.



Liz Vaughn, Midge Thompson, Christian Vaughn



Kevin Boehme, Marguerite Melone, Doreen Boehme, Jerome Minerva, Evelyn Polvere, Alan Thompson, Cecelia Polvere, Marie Dybec, Lillian Sharkey, Rob Dybec, Regina Goodman (chair), Patricia Delaney



Nancy Dunn gets help with the mattresses



The first parishioners to join Midge were Natalie and John Seiter. The group initially assisted at Bethel Jewish Center in Huntington on Friday nights. Our parish welcomed the homeless to our own facility for the first time on Good Friday night in 2009. That night, many of our guests found themselves in the old choir loft where they joined us during the youth group's Living Stations of the Cross. The following year, St. Elizabeth became a regular shelter site church housing the homeless on Friday nights December through March.



Francis Kutz, Marie Dybec, Fran Telford



Virginia Marchesiello



Christine Pennacchio



Bridget Berbrick



Early HIHI Volunteers



Jerome Minerva



Nancy Dunn (chair), Chris Sailon

The **Compassionate Callers** ministry began in 2005 when Nancy Dunn and Chris Sailon expressed their willingness to reach out to those who were on the parish sick list. They felt the importance of not only praying for the sick during Sunday masses but also checking up on them and supporting the families.

Christine Balestrieri and Frank Roggenkamp accepted the pastoral team's invitation to be trained for a special ministry beginning in our diocese for those who have gone through divorce. The first eleven-week session of **Divorced and Beyond** began in September of 2010. Through an atmosphere of trust and prayer, parishioners are able to share their stories so that healing can continue.



Frank Roggenkamp (co-chair),
Christine Balestrieri (co-chair)

