P.O. Box 1227 580 Main Street Westhampton Beach, NY 11978

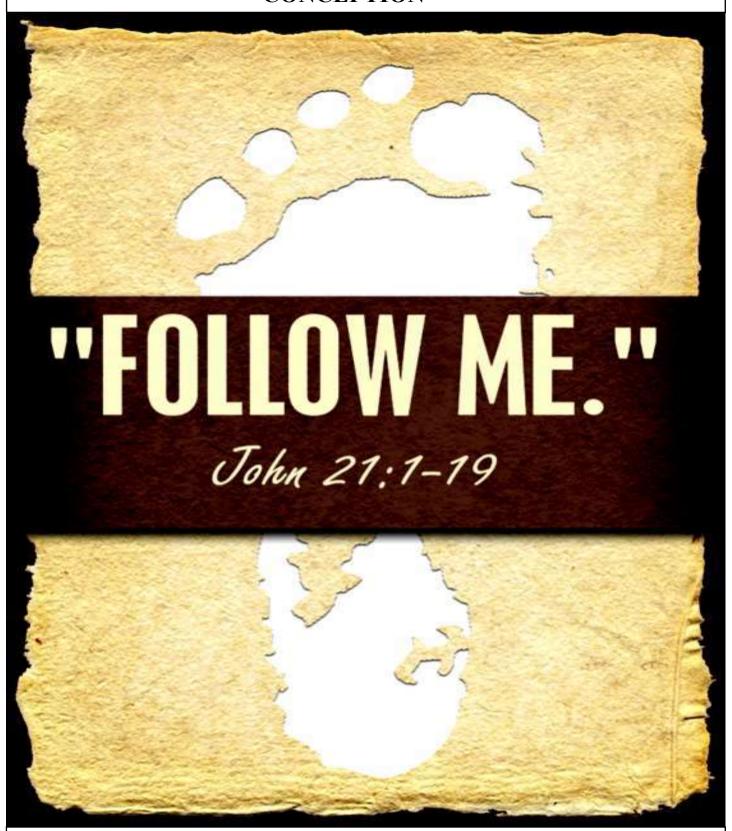
# Church of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Website: iccwhb.org

Parish email: parishoffice@iccwhb.org

**FB:** www.facebook.com/iccwhb

YouTube: www.youtube.com/@iccwhb



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER May 4, 2025

#### **STAFF**

#### Rev. Kenneth Grooms, Pastor

Deacon Joseph Byrne Deacon Mark Herrmann

Shawn Pinson, Sacristan
Bobby Peterson, Music Director
Donna Cosme, Director of Religious Education
Anne Dean, Assistant to Director of Religious Ed
Linda Geoghan, Parish Secretary
Juan Vicente, Maintenance Manager

## **Parish Office Hours:**

Monday through Thursday 9:00am to 5:00pm CLOSED Friday, Saturday, Sunday, & Holidays

Parish Office 631-288-1423

Fax 631-288-5498

parishoffice@iccwhb.org

Religious Education 631-288-4188

Fax 631-288-8215 religioused@iccwhb.org

Queen of Apostles, Regional School 631-878-1033

## **Celebration of the Eucharist**

## **Saturday**

5:00pm Vigil Mass

## **Sunday**

8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am 6:00pm (Spanish Mass)

#### **Daily Mass**

8:00am Monday through Thursday 12:00pm Friday

The Rosary is recited immediately after daily Mass

#### **Holy Days**

Vigil @ 7:00pm (Spanish Mass)
Day @ 8:00am, 12:00pm, & 7:00pm

#### **First Saturday Mass**

Due to an issue with scheduling availability, we are no longer able to offer the First Saturday Mass each month.

#### **Eucharistic Adoration**

The FIRST FRIDAYS (Novena & silent adoration to Sacred Heart) of each month at 12:30pm and the LAST MONDAYS of each month at 7:00pm in the Church.

#### **Confessions**

Every Saturday 4:00pm to 4:45pm

### **PARISH TRUSTEES**

Beth Hard & Linda O'Brien

#### PARISH COUNCIL

Michael Berdinka, Tom Day, Lori Francescani, Lisa Guzman, Tara Hudson, Verna Merkel, & Amabilia Estrada Ruiz

### PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

Kevin Dwyer, Beth Hard, Daily Hill, Christine Lennon, Linda O'Brien, Scott O'Brien, Joe Sala, & Michael Strebel

**MARRIAGES:** Arrangements should be made at least 1 year in advance. Marriage dates may be made only with the priest after he interviews the couple. Please call the Parish Office to set up an appointment. Pre- Cana classes are required.

**BAPTISMS:** Parents are required to attend one evening class before Baptism; and are encouraged to attend class during pregnancy. Baptismal class is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November. To register for Baptism, please contact the Parish Office.

#### **SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING THE SICK:**

Emergency calls for the Sacraments for the seriously ill may be made any time of the day or night, every day of the year. The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will also be celebrated every second Friday of the month at the 12:00pm Mass. All those who are seriously ill, including those preparing for surgery or a hospital stay, are invited to receive the Sacrament.

#### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Monday:** Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30;

Jn 6:22-29

**Tuesday:** Acts 7:51-8:1a; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 7b, 8a, 17,

21ab; Jn 6:30-35

Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-7a;

Jn 6:35-40

**Thursday:** Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20;

Jn 6:44-51

Friday: Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:52-59 Saturday: Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-17; Jn 6:60-69 Sunday: Acts 13:14, 43-52; Ps 100:1-3, 5;

Rv 7:9, 14b-17; Jn 10:27-30

#### **TODAY'S READINGS**

Acts 5:27–32, 40b–41: The apostles openly give witness to the power of Jesus' name.

**Psalm 30:** "I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me."

**Revelation 5:11–14:** John declares the glory of Jesus, the Lamb of God.

John 21:1–19 or 21:1–14: The risen Christ welcomes his own at the seashore.

In the first reading, Saint Peter courageously faces down the Sanhedrin when they try to forbid the disciples from preaching and teaching in Jesus' name. The Gospel reveals that Jesus himself gave Peter that courage by leading him to profess his love for him three times, as he had lacked that courage when denying Jesus three times. May we realize that Jesus constantly invites us to reconciliation as well, instilling in us the courage to spread the Good News.

#### PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

Patricia Tolan Aureliano Set Gusman

MASS ATTENDANCE							
DATE	5pm	8am	9:30am	11am	6рт	TOTAL	
04/06/25	129	139	120	181	100	669	
04/13/25	145	188	168	210	275	986	
04/20/25	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	
04/27/25	149	162	88	186	177	762	

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS						
DATE	COLLECTION	AMOUNT				
04/27/2025	Weekly Collection	\$5,060.00				
04/28/2024	Weekly Collection	\$5,280.00				
04/20/2025	Easter Collection	\$27,081.00				
03/31/2024	Easter Collection	\$19,043.00				
Thank you for your continuous support!						

#### MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday May 3

5:00pm Louis & Mary Ansalone (Fr. Ken)

Sunday May 4

8:00am The People of the Parish (Msgr. Mirro) 9:30am Deceased Members of the Franski

Family (Fr. Peter)

11:00am Anthony Miccio (Fr. Ken)

6:00pm Poor Souls in Purgatory (Fr. Jose)

Monday May 5

8:00am Chuck Bonawandt

Tuesday May 6

8:00am Jerald Bolmarcich

Wednesday May 7

8:00am (Guild Mass) Richard Droesch

Thursday May 8

8:00am Amelia Waldron

Friday May 9

12:00pm Casey Interrante

Saturday May 10 4:00pm Confessions

5:00pm Margaret McCaffery (Fr. Peter)

Sunday May 11

8:00am Laureen Kasper (Fr. Ken)
9:30am Karl Bonawandt (Fr. Ken)
11:00am Silvana DiMasi (Msgr. Mirro)
6:00pm The People of the Parish (Fr. Jose)

#### **CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL**

## The 2025 Catholic Ministries Appeal

The 2025 Catholic Ministries Appeal is happening in our parish and in parishes across the Diocese. Please give prayerful consideration to help fund the essential ministries and services supported by this appeal.

Goal \$62,100.00
Total Pledged \$18,320.00
Payments Received \$15,549.00
Donors: 48 % of Goal: 29.50%

The parish will receive 20% of the goal once all pledged payments are received. The parish will receive an additional

80% of monies pledged & received over goal.

#### **eGIVING OPPORTUNITIES**

eGiving makes it easy to give, anytime, anywhere. To continue lifesaving ministries and outreach in our parish community, we depend on generous online donations from our church family. We prayerfully invite you to use eGiving from your computer, smartphone, or



tablet to set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift.

#### FAITH DIRECT

Enrolling with Faith Direct will provide Immaculate Conception with consistent support and simplify your giving without the use of envelopes. Visit:

https://membership.faithdirect.net/NY66 Thank you for your continued support!

#### A MESSAGE FROM DEACON JOE ...

#### Last week's homily on Pope Francis ...

Today is the Second Sunday of Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday. Last Monday we lost a truly holy and humble man. Pope Francis used Jesus's approach To save the world rather than condemn it and welcomed everyone, everyone, everyone, as he used to say. He asked those in power to care for those who had none.

Pope Francis said "God's mercy is our liberation and our happiness. We live for mercy, and we cannot afford to be without mercy. It is the air that we breathe. We are too poor to set any conditions. We need to forgive, because we need to be forgiven."

Mercy, he said, is "the air we breathe," meaning that without mercy it would be impossible to live. In a homily he gave during one of his morning Masses in April 2014, Pope Francis said: quote "How many of us perhaps deserve a condemnation! And it would be just. But He forgives! How? With mercy that does not erase the sin: it is only the forgiveness of God that erases it, while mercy goes beyond that. It is like the sky: we look at the sky, so many stars, but when the sun comes in the morning with so much light, the stars are no longer seen. So it is with God's mercy: a great light of love, of tenderness, because God forgives not with a decree, but with a caress." End quote.

Maybe that's the deeper invitation of our Gospel reading today. Resurrection isn't proven by an empty tomb or a scarred body. It shows itself in transformed lives—disciples moving from fear to courage, from silence to witness. It's seen in people who forgive when it's hard, who serve without being thanked, who love when it costs them something.

Belief isn't just accepting a story. It's about living it. And that kind of life leaves marks. If we call ourselves Christian but lock ourselves in rooms of fear and self-protection—if we take food or medicine from the poor, deny people their rights or dignity, or close our hearts to those in need—then we betray the very Gospel we profess. The truest evidence of the Resurrection is not in what we say, but in how we live—whether we embody the peace, justice, and mercy of the One who still bears the wounds of love.

We bear those wounds, too.

The ache of grief, the fatigue of caring, the heartbreak of watching others suffer. The daily effort to stay tender in a world that rewards hardness. The vulnerability of forgiving, of staying, of showing up again and again. These are not signs of failure. They're signs that love has taken root in us.

And yet...some days, I am weary. I could just weep. The struggle isn't over—it may just be beginning. But even then, Jesus comes. Not after we've figured it all out, but right in the middle of the mess. He comes through locked doors. He breathes peace. He shows his wounds. And he invites us to believe—not because it all makes sense, but because love still lives.

And if you find yourself doubting, grieving, barely holding on—you are not alone. The Risen Christ is near. In the tiredness. In the tears. In the quiet, stubborn hope that maybe—just maybe—love will rise again. Remember Pope Francis' words, "God's mercy is the air that we breathe, it is the caress of His forgiveness. Let's make it part of our life as often as we can.



#### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

#### **Religious Education Office Hours are:**

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 9am to 5pm 631-288-4188

#### SECOND COLLECTION

The second collection this weekend is for Catholic Elementary Schools. Thank you for your generosity.

#### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Third Sunday of Easter

Saturday: St. John of Avila; St. Damien de Veuster

#### **QUESTION OF THE WEEK**



When have I found the courage to speak out on behalf of what I believe?

#### MARRIAGE BANNS

I Lauren Procaccino to Vasilios Lolis

#### **MEDITATION** with Deacon Joe

Tuesdays at 2pm in the Parish Center Try this spiritual practice, it will surprise you!

#### PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Aurora Antunes, Deacon Joseph Byrne, Kevin Chisholm, Rev. Simplicio D'Sousa, Alexa Dalton, Brian Dalton, Lisa Falcone, Blythe Fickenwirth, Richard Hewes, Young Katie Kennedy, Rosanna, Daniel Standing & Patricia Tolan.

Please call the Parish Office (631-288-1423) to add/delete a name to the sick list. This list will be cleared occasionally.

#### PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Ethan Bentley (Navy)
Julia Blake (Navy)
Joseph Ferraro III (Air Force)
Thomas Hellman (USSF)
Lt. Col. William Robesch
RJ Ruggiero (Navy)
Lt. Cameron Worden
Lt. Matthew Worden (Navy)

Please contact the Rectory @631-288-1423 to add a loved one to the military list

#### PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY



#### FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Toiletries (shampoo & soap), Juice Boxes, Cereal, Pasta, Tuna, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Hearty Soup, & Condiments.

#### The Pantry is in **DIRE NEED** of:

Peanut Butter, Jelly, Soap, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Deodorant, & Size 6 Diapers.

#### **REFLECTIONS**

### **Living Stewardship**

"To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor, glory and might, forever and ever." As we continue through this Easter season, let us take the lessons and devotions we learned and practiced this past Lent and grow in our spirituality—so as to give proper worship to the Lord.

#### **Bulletin Reflection**

In today's Gospel, Jesus reveals Himself to the disciples for the third time.

#### PRAY FOR OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED



Henry George Brown
Everly Rose Corrado
Keylin Yulieta Felipe
Mark Salvador Felipe
Daniel Hugo Felipe Gregorio
Elizabeth Yoana Gregorio
Heidi Remmington Storz

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

There is a great power in prayer. It is our lifeline to God. Through it we communicate with God, and people are strengthened, helped, and made whole.

Do you know of some concern, or of some person with a special need for whom we ought to pray? We have 29 prayer warriors praying, please call Charles Schmidt at 631-288-4243 and leave a message with your prayer request.

#### **TEDDY'S CORNER**



Beautiful Teddy!



#### Words to Ponder ...

The walls of hospitals have heard more honest prayers than churches.

They have witnessed far more sincere kisses than those in airports.

It is in hospitals that you see a homophobe being saved by a gay doctor.

A privileged doctor saving the life of a beggar. In intensive care, you see a Jew taking care of a racist.

A police officer and a prisoner in the same room receiving the same care.

A wealthy patient waiting for a liver transplant ready to receive the organ from a poor donor.

It is in these moments when the hospital touches the wounds of people that different worlds intersect according to a divine design and in this communion of destinies, we realize that alone we are nothing. The absolute truth of people, most of the time, only reveals itself in moments of pain or in the real threat of an irreversible loss.

A hospital is a place where human beings remove their masks and show themselves as they truly are in their purest essence.

This life will pass quickly, do not waste it fighting with people.

Do not criticize your body too much. Do not complain excessively.

Do not lose sleep over bills. Make sure to hug your loved ones.

Do not worry too much about keeping the house spotless.

Material goods must be earned by each person - do not dedicate yourself to accumulating an inheritance. You are waiting for too much: Christmas, Friday, next year, when you have money, when love arrives, when everything is perfect. Listen ... perfection does not exist.

A human being cannot attain it because we are simply not made to be fulfilled here.

Here we are given the opportunity to learn.

So make the most of this trial of life - and do it now. Respect yourself, respect others.

Walk your own path and let go of the path others have chosen for you.

Respect: do not comment, do not judge, do not interfere.

Love more, forgive more, embrace more, live more intensely! And leave the rest in the hands of the Creator.



# The Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville Celebrate Annual Beauty of the Spirit Event

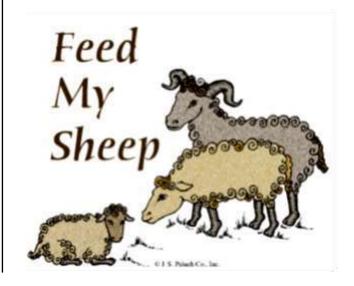
Our 24<sup>th</sup> Beauty of the Spirit event is scheduled for Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at

the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury. This year's Keynote Speakers are S. Margaret Galiardi, OP, S. Ann Horn, OP and Dominican Associate Angela Belsole. Several years ago, these three amazing women began We Move Forward Together, an initiative of the Amityville Dominicans, which invites individuals and groups to connect through our existing ministries in prayer to explore spirituality, ecology, social justice, and community organization.

Each year our program celebrates the beauty of the spirit of women - their strength, compassion, and wisdom. Our guests enjoy fantastic auctions and raffles, as well as an inspirational lecture.

Proceeds from this year's luncheon are designated for our irrigation system project. In 2024, the Congregation signed documents with the Peconic Land Trust, creating an agricultural conservation easement on 10.4 acres of our Motherhouse grounds. We now have local farmers inquiring about leasing portions of the land. Possibilities for agriculture in varied forms – vegetables, wildflowers, native grasses, and more – are all being explored to continue our gratitude and appreciation for this natural resource. This irrigation system is essential for a consistent and controlled supply of water and will ensure that the land is conserved for farming current needs and generations to come.

For more information, please contact the Office of Advancement at 631-842-6000 ext. 246 or visit: <a href="https://sistersofstdominic.org/2025luncheon">https://sistersofstdominic.org/2025luncheon</a>.



# INTRODUCTION TO THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

In this meal we raise hearts and voices in thanksgiving, for Christ is truly risen.

# INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

In the days and weeks that followed the Resurrection, the risen Lord kept appearing to his disciples when and where they least expected: in a locked room in Jerusalem, on the road to Emmaus, on the shore of the Sea of Tiberias. Each time, it took a while for them to recognize him. We often fail to recognize him as well, even though we know he continues to appear in our midst today. Whether in the person in need, in God's word, in the Eucharist, or in each other, let us be reminded that he continues to offer his presence to us every day.





Knights of Columbus Father Joseph Slomski Council #7423

# COLOR GUARD CEREMONY

in honor of Memorial Day at all the Masses the weekend of May 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>

If you would like to have the honor of carrying a flag into or out of Mass, please see an Usher upon your arrival, before Mass begins.

#### **SACRAMENTALS**

# BREAD & WINE, SANCTUARY LAMP, & ALTAR FLOWERS

To arrange a sacramental in loving memory of or for the intentions of your loved one, please visit the Parish Office.

Available Dates:

**Sanctuary Lamp:** May 12, 19, 26, June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 **Bread & Wine:** May 12, 19, 26, June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 **Altar Flowers:** May 11, 18, 25, June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

#### JUST DO IT

Whatever you can do or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it.

~ Attributed to Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

#### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION



From the earliest centuries, we know that some Christian women desired to vow themselves to a celibate life to pray and serve. Some, but by no means everyone, wanted a kind of monastic life. Others wanted to stay in the family home. By the fourth century, the church was celebrating the "Consecration of Virgins," a rite

performed by the bishop, and involving a "veiling" of the woman. It was looked upon as a form of marriage with Christ, partly because in the culture of the day a woman's status in society was linked to a man. The prayers and ritual for the consecration of virgins were exactly the same as the prayers and ritual for the consecration of a bride on her wedding day. The public character of the rite gave the bishop the opportunity to commend the virgin to the faithful, and to threaten with punishment anyone who tried to turn her from her commitment. Eventually, the rite fell into disuse for women living in the world, and was reserved for nuns. The Second Vatican Council directed that it be revived and restored, and in nearly every diocese, single women have embraced this form of consecrated life.

# **ICC Anti-Abuse Policy**

No one is allowed to be abusive in any way to any parishioner, staff member, or member of any ministry at Immaculate Conception Church.

Anyone being rude or verbally abusive will be asked to leave the premises. While positive feedback is always welcome, any negative critique or opinion that is not kind in nature should be shared (directly or indirectly) with the Pastor, Fr. Ken. A good rule-of-thumb: If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all.

# Easter Flowers Our beautiful Easter Flowers have

Our beautiful Easter Flowers have been donated in loving memory of our deceased or for the intentions of our living loved ones.

Richard Adrian, Jr.
Deceased Members of the Barker Family
Irene Barrow

Intentions of Anne & Gregory Bernhart Hubert Conneally

Judy Conneally

Irma Conroy

Frances & Albert Conway
Deceased Members of the Conway Family

Intentions of M/M Andrew Cazplick

Ester D'Abreau

Richard Dackow

Mildred & John Dackow

Deceased Members of the Dackow Family

Marie Dillon

Martin Dillon

Ann Eagleton

Bernard Eagleton

Ferry Family

Intentions of Robert Gillin

Intentions of M/M William Glover

Bridget Hand

Michael Hand

Catherine Keneally

Francis Keneally

Kissel Family

LaMura Grandparents

Laadt Family

Intentions of the McGrath Family

John & Patricia McNierney

Anthony Nobile

Geraldine Nobile

Shari Nobile

Jackie Rogers

Deceased Members of the Rose Family

Ginny Salerno

Intentions of the Schaffer Family

Barbara Smith

Bertha Strebel

Leo Strebel

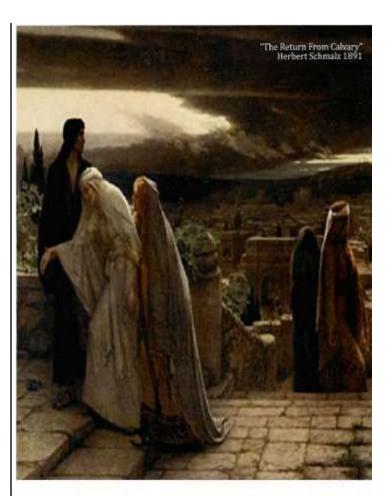
Sandy Strebel

Susylo Family

# **BETTER THAN MIRACLES**

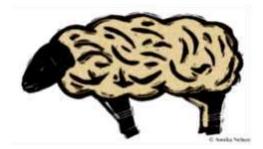
Suffering out of love of God is better than working miracles.

~ St. John of the Cross



# Prayer for Healing

Join with Deacon Joe this Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, after the 8am Mass for a prayer service for healing. All are invited to attend.



# NEEDED

**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS** for the HOMEBOUND

Immaculate Conception Parish is in need of Trained Eucharistic Ministers for the Homebound Ministry. If you would like to join us in serving Communion to individuals at the Westhampton Care Center and/or individuals in their homes who cannot attend mass, please contact susanvalentino@yahoo.com.



# Tickets on sale until May 2nd

Name:	- 42	
Number of Adult tickets requested:	May 9th	May 10th
Number of Children tickets requested:	May 9th	May 10th
Contact email or phone number:		
Total amount enclosed:		

(Checks can be made out to OLQA and can be mailed to 2 St. John's Place, Center Moriches or dropped off at the main office Monday- Friday between 8 and 2 PM)



Our Lady Queen of Apostles Regional Catholic School

Pre-K -8th Grade

# **Admission Open!**

2025-26



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#### Deborah Pirro, ABR Real Estate Salesperson

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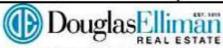
Hamptons Office 631.288.1050, c.516.637.5786 deborahpirro@danielgale.com







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