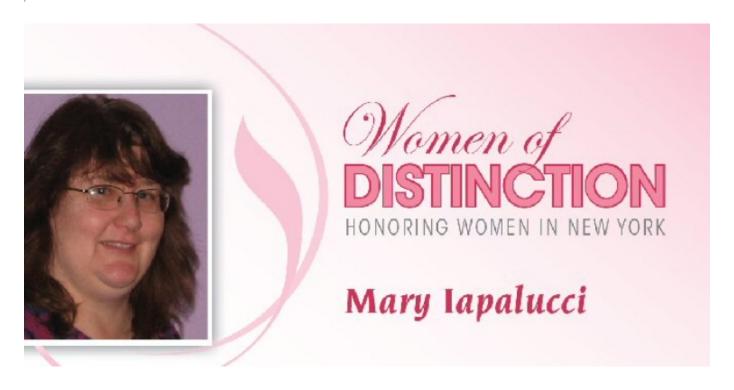


## Mary Iapalucci

THOMAS D. CROCI May 11, 2016

**ISSUE: 2016 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION** 



Mary Iapalucci is Coordinator of Outreach at St. Jude's Parish, Mastic Beach. When Hurricane Sandy hit the Mastic Beach area hard in October 2012, Ms. Iapalucci selflessly volunteered her time and energy at Outreach to help her neighbors in need. In March 2013, upon the retirement of the former coordinator, Ms. Iapalucci took on the leadership role – eager to help her community recover from situations like the tragic destruction caused by Hurricane Sandy.

St. Jude's Parish Outreach is one of the busiest parish social ministry offices on Long Island, serving more than 300 families monthly with food, clothing and other basic needs, ranging from diapers and cleaning supplies to friendly smiles and sympathetic ears. Outreach's goal is to provide direct help, referrals and advocacy for people with a variety of needs, always with compassion and respect.

As Coordinator, Ms. Iapalucci tirelessly leads a team of volunteers and donors from the parish and the community, keeping an emergency food closet stocked year round. Thanksgiving dinners are provided for more than 300 families, as well as dinners and children's gifts for Christmas. Ms. Iapalucci understands the importance and the difference that having a hot meal can make, especially during the holidays when people may not have the means to do so.

A native of Queens, Ms. Iapalucci has been a parishioner at St. Jude's since 1990, where she is also a catechist. A long-time Catholic journalist on the local and national levels, she continues to work part time for the Diocese of Rockville Center as Web Strategies Manager.

Ms. Iapalucci has been married to her husband, Ken, for 28 years, and together they have two adult children.