

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	February 11th
8:30 AM	Gerry Murphy
5:00 PM	William Walters
Sunday	February 12th
8:30 AM	Taciana Pinero Uy
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Joan Sauro
5:00 PM	Richard Genova
Monday	February 13th
8:30 AM	Theresa Frazer
12:00 PM	Helen Petti
Tuesday	February 14th
8:30 AM	Robert Casaccio and May & Ed Chocko
12:00 PM	Bolivar & Robert Almeida
Wednesday	February 15th
8:30 AM	Frank Morison
12:00 PM	Jack Bernardone
Thursday	February 16th
8:30 AM	Leonard Quigley & William Kirby
12:00 PM	Dorothy Kenney
Friday	February 17th
8:30 AM	Adalberto Rivera
12:00 PM	Frances Dyer
Saturday	February 18th
8:30 AM	Angelo & Rosemary Sauro
5:00 PM	Eleanor & James Mara
Sunday	February 19th
8:30 AM	Homai Gharda
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Herbert Endres
5:00 PM	Richard Genova

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Vincent Lucanie, Roberta Papagni, Bernadette Boyle, Brene Brown, James Leung, Chantel Fernandes, Alice Coleman, Robert & Mary Tardona, Ken Kirwin, Christopher Tolve, Roseann Salerno, Bishop Cisneros, Rose Jonsson, Larry Ginsberg, Antoinette Wagner, Richard Kelly, Frank & Carolyn Kalnberg, Josie Bellina, Vera Garofalo, Gladys Sanchez, Mary J. Riley, Enrico D. Montesa, John O'Driscoll, Marilyn Jagiello, Eleanor Murray, Jean Strifler, Ava Cautin, Patrick Norton, JoAnn Gatch, Isabel Azzaro, Jim Redmond, Ann Rung, Celina Oleksie, Liane Ginsberg, Helaine Powell & Unborn Child, Claudette David, Denise Michelle, Renata Vecchione, Mary I. Albert, Rosa Rivera, Tom Horgan, Chris Austin, Connie Kwan, and for **all of our parishioners who are currently hospitalized or homebound.**

**PRAY FOR THE ARMED SERVICES**

Capt. Peter Sulewski, U.S. Army; Lt. Col. Patrick Davis, U.S. Army (JAG); Chief Ajay James, U.S. Navy NSW; Sgt. Beau Parham, U.S. Army; Capt. Paul Lentz, USAF; Sgt. Larry Saume, U.S. Army; Capt. Travis Swiatocha, USMC, and **all parishioners currently in the Military**

Pray for all of our police, fire, and corrections officers, who risk their lives daily to insure our safety.

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

Msgr. Gerard J. Arella
Msgr. Austin Bennett

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – February 12th**

Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time

-Boys Tri-M Awards Luncheon-Parish Hall at 2:00pm

MONDAY – February 13th

Weekday

-Rich In Mercy Prayer Group-Church at 7:30pm

-Scripture Study-Rectory Meeting Room I at 7:30pm

TUESDAY - February 14th

Saints Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop

-Cub Scouts-School at 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY – February 15th

Weekday

-Exercise Class-Parish Hall at 9:00am

-Golden Age-Parish Hall at 12:30pm - **All Are Welcome**

-CCD K thru 6-Church at 3:30pm

-Divine Mercy-Church at 7:00pm

THURSDAY – February 16th

Weekday

-CCD 7th Gr.-Rel. Ed. Office at 3:45pm

-Boy Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

-Baptism Meeting– Rectory at 7:30pm

FRIDAY – February 17th

Weekday

-Girl Scouts-Parish Hall at 4:00pm & 6:00pm

SATURDAY – February 18th

Weekday

-Baptism-Church at 1:00pm

**If you are not yet registered in the Parish,
please stop into the Rectory for a Census Form
Mon. thru Sat. 9am-4pm.**

ALTAR FLOWERS

Many thanks for this week's flower donation given in **loving memory of:**



Francis Morison
by
Ann and Children

BREAD AND WINE

Many thanks for this week's donation of Bread & Wine given in **loving memory of:**

Jim Beam
by
Bernadette Beam

**MEMORIALIZE A LOVED ONE**

Consider the possibility of a donation of the **Bread & Wine, Flowers for the Altar, Tabernacle Light, or the Memorial Worship Fund** in memory of a special person. Names of all those memorialized will be published in the bulletin. Call or stop by the Rectory for more info.

Dear Parishioners;

This Sunday's Gospel from St. Matthew seems a little baffling. In part, Jesus is reminding His disciples that His purpose in coming was to fulfill the Law - "not the smallest letter or part of a letter will pass from the Law until all things have taken place". Then the focus shifts. Matthew presents Jesus as the fulfillment of the Law. Jesus brings it to its highest development. Jesus' disciples are challenged to have an understanding of the Law that exceeds that of the scribes and the Pharisees. This is quite a challenge since the scribes were the literate people at a time that many folks could neither read nor write. Consequently the scribes became the interpreters of the Law since they could read it. In fact, Jesus is saying that it is His interpretation of the Law rules in the kingdom of heaven and in order to participate in that kingdom His disciples must follow His interpretation. There follows several examples in which Jesus challenges not the Law but the circumstances that might lead to breaking the Law. Jesus wants us to dig deeper. "You shall not kill." stands but Jesus invites us to look at the reasons that might prompt us to consider murdering a brother or sister. Before killing another, our underlying attitudes and perceptions must be examined. Similarly before making an offering in the Jerusalem temple which was thought to reconcile us with God, it was necessary to be reconciled with those who have something against us. The beginning of true worship is the act of reconciliation with others. Reconciliation is a prerequisite of true worship of God.

Jesus constantly underscores the internal attitudes; therefore, in the next section He illustrates the Mosaic Law prohibiting adultery. The commandment stands but we must examine the elements that might even lead us to consider a betrayal of our marriage vows. What might lead to such an action originates in the mind and the heart - the core of our being. This undoubtedly does not mean the occasional random thought that flows through our minds and over which we often have very little control. In a world of constant stimuli, it would be most difficult not to have the occasional stray and unbidden thought. However to act on such thoughts, or if you prefer temptations, is the area in which sin becomes a real possibility.

The next section of the Gospel is not meant to be taken literally. Even the most fundamentally inclined Christian does not take the next section literally. Should they do, there would be an awful lot of us with missing limbs or eyes! Rather this section can be compared to the loving parents who reminds a child to avoid a dangerous action: "I told you a million times not to run out in the street, etc..." Obviously the parents did not literally admonish the child a million times and the bright child is not going to challenge a parent on this point. It's a hyperbolic remark meant to emphasize the seriousness of the parents' admonition. Jesus too uses hyperbole to make important points. Don't worry about plucking out eyes or slicing off limbs - do worry about eliminating anything that would cause us to sin.

The Gospel citation concludes with a brief instruction on the prohibition of divorce. At a time when a man had simply to present his wife with a "Bill" of divorce for even the flimsiest of reasons, this teaching is meant to protect the rights of a woman especially at a time when they were frequently ignored.

Finally we have a statement on oaths. Some Christian denominations interpret this to mean that they should never take an oath even in court or in their Pledge of Allegiance to the nation. What our Lord is again driving at is that if all of us spoke the truth an oath would be unnecessary. Our "yes" would be "yes" and our "no" would be "no". In that world oaths or swearing would not be necessary. In fulfilling the mandates of the Law, Jesus is inviting us to look deeper and see the reasoning behind the Law. If the underlying reasons are disordered then we are challenged to make every attempt to correct the disorder. Not always easy but that is the challenge. Jesus rejects the legalism of the Scribes and Pharisees as being too narrow and actually limiting righteousness (right relations with God and each other). Pharisaic legalism in the past led some very good people to always be second guessing their fulfillment of the Law! "Was there a tiny bit of beef in my soup on the Fridays in Lent" or on fast days, "Did I carefully measure to see that the two smaller meals combined did not exceed my major meal?" "Did I miss Mass on Sunday, when at home I had a critically ill spouse who requires my constant care?" "Did I miss Mass when I was in the hospital?" If the answer to those questions and others like them is "yes" then the question might be "Do we view God as an unfeeling, insensitive dictator who demands things that we cannot be done?"

If we keep the two fundamental laws: "love God" and its corollary, "love you neighbor as yourself" then most other rules of conduct probably would not be necessary. These two fulfill all the Ten Commandments and provide righteousness with God and one another! That seems to be Jesus' point. We must not be satisfied with simply observing the Law but we are challenged to dig deep and look into our hearts.

In Christ,
Monsignor John A. McGuirl

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

The week of **February 12, RCIA** will NOT meet on Tuesday, Feb. 14th, instead, they will meet on **Thursday, Feb. 16** at the same time. **Centering Prayer** will be cancelled for Feb. 14th and Feb. 22nd, both afternoon and evening session. It will resume again on Tuesday, Feb. 29.

OLM BLOOD DRIVE

The New York Blood Center will be sponsoring a Blood Drive here at OLM Church on Sunday, February 26, 2017 from 8:45am to 2:45pm, in the Parish Hall. At this time of year, the **Blood Center's Inventory is at a critically low level**, and there is an **urgent need for donors of all blood types. Please help to replenish the supply and give the gift of life by donating blood.** Donor

literature and sign-up sheets are in the vestibule of the Church for your convenience. If you would like more information or would like to make an appointment please call the Rectory Office (718-268-6143).

To facilitate the registration process on February 26th, please bring your donor card, or ID number (if you have donated before) and a photo ID.

**WALK-IN DONORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!
COME AND BRING A FRIEND!**

Donating Blood is Not The Only Way to Help! Volunteers will be needed throughout the day to provide refreshments and support the donors, and to help facilitate the overall process. If you are able to offer an hour or two of your time please leave your name and time available at the Rectory Office.

ST. PATRICK AND ST. JOSEPH PARTY

Everyone is invited to celebrate these two great saints-St. Patrick and St. Joseph – in the Lower Church Hall on **Saturday, March 18, 2017 from 6:30 to 10:30 PM** with DJ Tim O'Brien of Good Time Party **Music**, pipers, dancing, superb hot buffet, coffee, tea, soft drinks, desserts, and BYOB. And Monsignor McGuirl promises his famous homemade family recipe soda bread. All for **\$40 /person by March 11, 2017** with **Early Bird Special of \$35/person for monies received by February 28, 2017**. Please see fliers in the bulletin and around the church to get your ticket. For more info, please contact **MaraGold Productions: Helen Van Tine-Golden or Jim Mara** at 718-497-5705

OPERA COMES TO MERCY AGAIN!

RESERVE NOW FOR MARCH 31st & APRIL 2nd!!

Golden Rose Opera Works, Mercy's resident opera company, proudly presents Pietro Mascagni's 70 minute glorious one – act glorious masterpiece, "Cavalleria Rusticana" right here in the church on Friday, March 31, 2017 at 7:30 PM and Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 2PM.

A terrific tale of a spurned pregnant lover, a reckless young man, a spoiled bored housewife and an avenging husband -AND the swift settling of fate all on Easter Sunday morning. And the audience is in the middle of all that action and glorious music.

Please see flyer in the bulletin and around the church for reservation details and tear off form for ticket purchases. General admission tickets are \$20 adults and \$15/ students and seniors. Please call Helen Van Tine –Golden at 718-793-2033 for additional information or see her after or before the 8:30 AM and 10AM Masses ! Thank you for your continued patronage.

LAST CALL

This will be your last chance to sign up for our art workshop focusing on the icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa. Join us on Sunday, 2/19/17 from 1-4pm to make your own Icon to honor Mary. All children under 18 must be accompanied by adult and a \$10 material fee/icon will be collected at door if not paid in advance. Pre-registration suggested so that adequate materials are provided. Please sign up with Rectory by Monday 2/13 OR Email: MyartforGod@gmail.com ..

FOOD PANTRY

*I am
the Bread
of Life*
John 6:48



The Food Pantry Community at Our Lady of Mercy Church is a part of our Ministry that seeks to create a hunger free community by sharing our abundant blessings with God's people that are in need. The Food Pantry Ministry operates on every Saturday from 10:00am to 11:00am. The purpose of the Food Pantry is to assist those living within the community of Forest Hills and the surrounding areas of Queens who are in need of basic food and sanitary supplies during times of hardship. However, no one presenting a genuine need will be turned away. Since your donations help us keep the shelves stocked, we are asking for your help in dropping off food, monetary donations or gift cards. If giving a **monetary donation**, please make all checks payable to Our Lady of Mercy Church (in the memo section please state Food Pantry or Human Services) and forward all cash or checks to the Rectory, 70 01 Kessel Street.

Food Pantry Hours are:10:00am–11:00am every Saturday

The **Human Services** element of the parish pastoral care program is for those who require human services that go beyond those offered by our weekly food pantry. I, Deacon Dean Dobbins, will be available on Tuesdays evenings from 7:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. If you require this assistance please leave your name and number at the Rectory so that an appointment may be made.

A REMINDER!

As you know, we no longer accept donations of clothing here in the Parish unless we have a truck scheduled during a specific time to accept the clothing directly. Lack of space as well as legal restrictions do not permit our storage of clothing in any of our buildings. In light of these facts, **please do not drop clothing at the Rectory or outside the door when the Rectory is closed.** We will notify everyone, in advance, when we are scheduling a truck to be here for donations. Thank you for your cooperation.

POOR BOX

We continue to receive requests for assistance so we ask you to please remember the poor and make a donation to the Poor Boxes at the entries of the Church. Your continued generosity is greatly appreciated.

WEEKLY OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please remember to mark the amount of your offering on the front of the envelope. Since the envelopes are used **to record your offering** after the donation is removed, **it is necessary that the amount be written on the front.** Thank you!

SPRING ALREADY?!

Although there seems to be some disagreement between Phil and Chuck as to when Spring will arrive, here at OLM, plans are being made for our Spring Fling event in early May.

If you are a vendor or know someone who would like to participate in this event, please have them call or email the Rectory for more details.

THINK SPRING!!!!

DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

February 15, 2017	Divine Mercy Chaplet	7:00pm
	Benediction	8:00pm
February 22, 2017	Divine Mercy Devotion	7:00pm

FEEL GREAT & LOOK GREAT

Feel and look great at our exercise class every Wednesday from 9:00 to 10:00 AM in the Parish Hall. The class focuses on gentle movements for your muscles and joints. There is a nominal fee of \$2 per session. Please come and enjoy the fitness fun. All ages are welcome.

OLM MUSICAL NOTES

We are hoping to get some additional members this year to expand our choirs. We hope that you will consider joining us.

The Adult Choir will rehearse on Mondays at 7:30PM and sing at the 10AM Mass on Sundays.

The Youth Choir will rehearse in the church on Sundays at 11AM and sing at the 12 Noon Mass **The youth choir will be accepting students from third grade and up.**

If you are interested in joining either choir please contact our Music Director, Jane Lawson. You can see her in the choir loft after any Mass on Sundays, or leave a message for her at the Rectory

**OLMCA NEWS
PRE-K FOR ALL!**

The Pre-K application period for the 2017-18 school year will be open between January 17 and February 24, 2017. All NYC families with children born in 2013 are eligible to apply to Pre-K. Offer letters will be distributed in late April 2017.

In free, full-day, high-quality Pre-K, teachers are sparking wonder and igniting learning in our children. Pre-K for All gives children stronger math and reading skills in elementary school and a better chance at success in life. Studies show that early childhood education improves performance throughout a child's school experience.

You can apply for Pre-K For All at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy by visiting the website at: schools.nyc.gov/Applyonline. You can find more information on page 115 of the Pre-Kindergarten directory. If you are in need of an additional directory, please let us know.

The office staff is more than happy to assist you in filling out an application. Please call us at 718-793-2086 to schedule a time that is convenient for you. We look forward to the opportunity to continue to provide your child with an excellent education at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy. Thank you.

NEWS

- **Helpers of God's Precious Infants** at the All Women's Pavilion, 120-34 Queens Blvd., on Saturdays between 7:00 AM and 11:30 AM in a peaceful, prayerful witness to life. Lives are saved and the way to conversion is opened. Join us for any amount of time.
- **Ozanam Hall of Queens Nursing Home** (42-41 201st St., Bayside) is seeking part time Activity Leaders. No Experience necessary, but good verbal/writing skills as well as interpersonal skills in working with the senior population are required. If interested, please call Marilyn Gindi at 718-971-2708
- **Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages.** This program has helped thousands of couples worldwide experiencing ALL TYPES of marital difficulties. For confidential information about the Retrouvaille program, or to register for the upcoming weekend (2/17/17) call 800-470-2230 and you will be connected directly and confidentially to a couple from Long Island/Metro Retrouvaille who can help.
- **Celtic Crossings Live in Concert** will be at the NYCB Theatre at Westbury, on March 5th at 3:00pm, to **Benefit Dominican Village.** For info call Dominican Village at 631-842-6618 or visit: www.TheTheatreAtWestbury.com

**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL
GIVES BACK**

Our Lady of Mercy will share in the profits. For each **donated car, truck or van, running or not**, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will give back to our parish **\$50/\$100 per vehicle**. Maybe you don't have a vehicle, but a family member, friend or neighbor has an old or neglected vehicle in their driveway that they would like to dispose of. Our Lady of Mercy Parish received several hundred dollars last year, the **most recent being just this month**, because of the kindness of those who contributed their old car to the St. Vincent DePaul Society. Thank you for your participation, and **please continue to spread the word.** Call **St. Vincent de Paul** at (718) 491-2525

THE DEANERY CORNER

- Our Lady of Hope The Holy Name Society is sponsoring a Men's Retreat, Friday, February 24 to Sunday, February 26 at the Bishop Molloy Retreat House. Theme: "We Are a People of Promise!" The offering is \$210. For more information, call Steve Stern at 917-648-9707.
- The Senior Goal Group of Our Lady of Hope will sponsor a Anointing of the Sick Mass on Saturday, March 4th at 1:00pm at Our Lady Of Hope Church (61-27 71st St.. Middle Village, NY, 718-429-5438). Light Refreshments will be served in the cafeteria after the Mass.