

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	February 25th
8:30 AM	Jorge Bonilla
5:00 PM	Mary & Savino Camporese
Sunday	February 26th
8:30 AM	Taciana Pinero Uy
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Fred Sorentino
5:00 PM	Cesar Gomez DeLeon
Monday	February 27th
8:30 AM	Jameson Page
12:00 PM	Michael, Caroline Michael Sassi Jr. and Roland Pugliese
Tuesday	February 28th
8:30 AM	John Degnan
12:00 PM	Jennette Markey
Wednesday	March 1st
8:30 AM	Mass
10:00 AM	OLMCA Mass
12:00 PM	Deacon Larry Mule
3:00 PM	Service
7:30 PM	Mass
Thursday	March 2nd
8:30 AM	Robert Rameriz
12:00 PM	Rose & Ralph Illuminato
Friday	March 3rd
8:30 AM	Eleanor & James Mara
12:00 PM	John Stanick
Saturday	March 4th
8:30 AM	Thomas Strauss
5:00 PM	Herbert Enders
Sunday	March 5th
8:30 AM	Taciana Pinero Uy
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Lynn Hoenig
5:00 PM	Michael Albert

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Vincent Lucanie, Roberta Papagni, Brene Brown, James Leung, Chantel Fernandes, Alice Coleman, Robert & Mary Tardona, Ken Kirwin, Christopher Tolve, Roseann Salerno, 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, 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, John Kelly, 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); 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

Brother Charles Marcellin
Bernadette Boyle
Cruz Maria Moro
Rafael Antonio Gomez
Salvatore (Teddy) Calendra
Patrick Patton

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – February 26th**

Eighth Sunday In Ordinary Time

-OLM Blood Drive-Parish Hall at from 8:45am to 2:45pm

MONDAY – February 27th

Weekday

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

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

TUESDAY - February 28th

Weekday

-Centering Prayer-Rectory Meeting Room at 2:30pm & 6:15pm

-Cub Scouts-School at 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY – March 1st

Ash Wednesday

-Exercise Class-Parish Hall at 9:00am

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

Blessed ashes will be distributed after the homily at each Mass and at the Prayer Service at 3:00pm.

THURSDAY – March 2nd

Thursday After Ash Wednesday

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

-Boy Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

FRIDAY – March 3rd

Friday After Ash Wednesday

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

SATURDAY – March 4th

Saturday After Ash Wednesday

PLEASE NOTE: Packets of Ashes will be available, on Ash Wednesday, in the Sacristy & Rectory. Please take one if you know a homebound parishioner who would like to receive Ashes

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

**BREAD AND WINE**

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

Joan Sauro

by

Frank Sauro

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;

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1st

For your convenience, the schedule for Ash Wednesday is as follows:

8:30 A.M.: Mass
 10:00 A.M.: Mass for Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy but all are welcome
 12:00 P.M.: Mass
 3:00 P.M.: Service with the Distribution of Ashes
 3:30 P.M.: Service for Rel. Education Children with The Distribution of Ashes
 7:30 P.M.: Mass

During Lent The Station of the Cross will be celebrated twice every Friday: the first time at 9:00 A.M. and the second at 7:30 P.M. (No Evening Stations on the evening of March 31st at 7:30 P.M.)

Soup Luncheon (formerly Supper) - Sunday, March 12th at 1:00 P.M.

St. Vincent DePaul Clothing Drive - Sunday, April 9th

Over the last few years, we have had various adult education opportunities which utilized sections of the "Catholicism" DVD Series, by Father (now Bishop) Robert Barron. Father Barron was a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, Illinois but recently has been ordained an Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, California. We have never viewed the series in its entirety; yet, it is the perfect way to introduce people to our Catholic Faith or to refresh our own Faith while also exploring some of the difficult questions and problems.

Every parishioner is invited to join Monsignor McGuirl on the Tuesdays of Lent at 7:30 P.M. in the Church Hall. All age groups are invited. Father Barron's majestic and scenic DVDs make our Faith available to all levels of education and to every age group. We will view the entire series during Lent. Our parishioners are invited to come for as many or as few of the segments as they wish. You may drop in or out as you see fit. We will try to take two segments each week. For your convenience they are as listed below:

March 7th	<i>Amazed and Afraid</i> <i>Happy are We</i>	The Revelation of God become Man The Teachings of Jesus
March 14th	<i>The Ineffable Mystery of God</i> <i>Our Tainted Nature's Solitary Boast</i>	That Than Which Nothing Greater Can Be Thought Mary, The Mother of God
March 21st	<i>The Indispensable Men</i> <i>A Body Both Suffering sand Glorious</i>	Peter, Paul and the Missionary Adventure The Mystical Union of Christ and the Church
March 28th	<i>Word Made Flesh, True Bread of Heaven</i> <i>A Vast Company of Witnesses</i>	The Mystery of the Liturgy and the Eucharist The Communion of Saints
April 4th	NO SESSION due to Forest Hills Civic Association Meeting in the Parish Hall	
April 11th	<i>The Fire of His Love</i> <i>World Without End</i>	Prayer and the Life of the Spirit The Last Things

I hope that these Lenten opportunities will help us to explore the mysteries of our faith and profoundly enhance our personal spirituality. In addition to "giving up something" these suggestions might be, more profitably, things that "we can do".

God bless you,

Monsignor McGuirl

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**Ash Wednesday (March 1st)**

Ash Wednesday is not a holy day of obligation but most Catholics and many other Christians will observe it by obtaining blessed ashes. Sackcloth and ashes were the Biblical indications of repentance and sorrow for sins. The sign of ashes in the shape of a cross on our foreheads is a reminder to each of us that in order to realign ourselves with God our lives must be marked by the sign of Christ. The minister has two choices as the ashes are applied: The first and more traditional is "Remember, thou art dust and unto dust thou shall return" - a rather stark reminder of the shortness of human life and that we are made from the same "stuff" of as everything else. The second choice is "Repent and hear the Good News". The Good News is that this "human dust" has been called by Almighty God to share in His life.

Lent

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1st, 2017. The **Lenten Regulations** are:

Fasting is required on both Ash Wednesday and Good Friday (April 14th). Fasting is a serious obligation for all Catholics 18 to 59 years of age. The requirement reminds us of Our Lord's sacrificial love for us. It further reminds us of our ultimate dependence on Almighty God for everything. It also unites us even if very briefly with the vast majority of the earth's population which often lacks even the basic nutritional requirements.

Abstinence on all the Fridays of Lent is also a serious penitential practice for all Catholics of all ages. Abstinence is the avoidance of meat or meat products. Like fasting, it is a reminder of our dependence on the love of almighty God and at least a brief solidarity with the poor.

All Catholics, after having received First Communion, **are bound to receive the Lord in Holy Communion at least once a year.** This obligation is called the **Easter Duty.** Most practicing Catholics receive the Eucharist regularly throughout the year so this obligation is more than fulfilled. The law applies a basic minimum and refers back to a time when Holy Communion was much less frequently received. However, if the recipient of Holy Communion is in a state of serious sin then recourse to the Sacrament of Penance is necessary.

Congratulations Are In Order

We have been informed by the Knights of Columbus that Mr. Michael Conigliaro, of this parish and a member of the Msgr. Sherman Council, was inducted into the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre during a ceremony at St. Patrick's Cathedral in November. This knighthood has its roots in the Middle Ages. In recent times the ladies and gentlemen of the Knights contribute much time, energy and resources to supporting the sacred places in the Holy Land and also assisting the native resident Christian communities in Israel, and in the Kingdom of Jordan as well as in the lands controlled by The Palestinian Authority.

In addition, three of our young parishioners: Allen Watson(9 yr. old group), Jack Fisher(12 yr. old group), and Matthew Mielnick(14 Yr. old group), were winners in the first round of the Msgr. Sherman Council Basketball Free Throw which was recently held in Forest Hills.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!!!
YOU CAN STILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!

Please consider taking a little time out of your day to help others by supporting the:
OLM BLOOD DRIVE



The New York Blood Center is sponsoring a Blood Drive here at OLM Church today 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. To facilitate the registration process please bring you 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.

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

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!!!!

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

DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

March 01, 2017	No Activity	
March 08, 2017	Divine Mercy Devotion	7:00pm
March 15, 2017	Devine Mercy Chaplet	7:00pm
	Benediction	8:00pm
March 22, 2017	Divine Mercy Cenacle	7:00 pm
March 29, 2017	Divine Mercy Devotion	7:00 pm

FOOD PANTRY

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

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.

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.

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.
- **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
- On Saturday, April 22, 2017, a Bishop McDonnell MHS (260 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn) Reunion will be held from approximately noon to 5pm. For more information contact Rita Monaghan-Maloney at 718-857-2700 ext.2253 or rimaloney@blmhs.org

THE DEANERY CORNER

- **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.
- **Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish** (110-06 Queens Blvd., Forest Hills) will hold its **annual early spring food festival** on March 12th, from 2:30pm to 5pm in McLaughlin Hall (the school auditorium; Tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 the day of the event (includes samplings of foods and desserts from many restaurants in Forest Hills and the neighboring communities & Lucky Bingo Game to win gift cards from other food venues). We are also selling raffle tickets at \$50 each or 3/\$75 for a chance to win a top prize of \$1,000 in cash. (Donors do not have to be present at the drawing to win.) To purchase tickets or raffles, call the OLQM rectory (718-268-6251) during business hours
- There will be **Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy, Stockbridge, MA on Sunday, April 23, 2017**. Bus departs at 6:30AM (sharp) from **Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church, 110-06 Queens Blvd (corner Ascan Avenue)**. Cost: \$50/person. Sponsored by the Charismatic Prayer Group at OLQM. For tickets, call: Virgie Punto 917-770-0897; Nellie Milite 718-704-3862. Or visit ourladyqueenofmartyrs.org/dmpilgrimage2017. Don't Miss Out! First Come, First Serve.
- **Resurrection-Ascension Church** will have it's annual **St. Patrick's Day Dance on Sunday, March 12th, from 4-8pm**. DJ playing Irish and contemporary favorites, buffet dinner, step dancers, and our first "Irish Person of the Year" presentation. Tickets are \$35 per person, children 12 & under are FREE. Call the rectory at (718) 424-5212, ext. 12, or email rarectory@aol.com for tickets or more information