

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday July 15th
 8:30 AM Michael Minischetti
 5:00 PM Angela & Frank Sauro Sr.

Sunday July 16th
 8:30 AM Susan Van Remmen
 10:00 AM Parish Mass
 12:00 PM Dorothea Laten
 5:00 PM Ralph Elia

Monday July 17th
 8:30 AM Josephine Mgbakor
 12:00 PM Msgr. James Hunt

Tuesday July 18th
 8:30 AM Jillian Lambert
 12:00 PM Raymond Cruz

Wednesday July 19th
 8:30 AM George Simonton (Living Intention)
 12:00 PM Arthur Savarese

Thursday July 20th
 8:30 AM Leonard Quigley & William Kirby
 12:00 PM Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Friday July 21st
 8:30 AM John J. Murphy
 12:00 PM Patrick J Shiels

Saturday July 22nd
 8:30 AM Louis & Pauline Pfohl
 5:00 PM Frank & Sadie Elia

Sunday July 23rd
 8:30 AM Tobias Koo (Living Intention)
 10:00 AM Parish Mass
 12:00 PM Joseph Gruszczynski
 5:00 PM Mickey Dowd



PRAY FOR THE SICK

James Leung, Alice Coleman, Robert & Mary Tardona, Antoinette Wagner, Richard Kelly, Rose Jonsson, Evelyn McMullan, Mary Ann Matecki, Vincent Lucanie, Patrick Norton, Diane Kitson, Peggy Racanelli, Maureen Medina, Jeanne Woods, Mary Honan, Ron Areas, Bonnie Nison, Gerry Holmes, Peter Ruelius, 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, Pvt. Tim Richardson, U.S. Army, 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

Carlos Lopez
 Sr. M. Fidelis Flannery, IHM
 Alfred Weber
 Mary Ippolito
 Miosotis Familia
 Msgr. Joseph R. Rosa
 Dolores DeBiase

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

SUNDAY – July 16th
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MONDAY – July 17th
Weekday

TUESDAY - July 18th
Weekday

WEDNESDAY – July 19th
Weekday
 -Exercise Class-Parish Hall at 9:00am
 -Golden Age-Parish Hall at 12:30pm - **All Are Welcome**
 -Divine Mercy-Rectory at 7:00pm

THURSDAY – July 20th
Weekday
 -Baptism Meeting-Rectory at 7:30pm

FRIDAY – July 21st
Weekday

SATURDAY – July 22nd
Saint Mary Magdalene
 -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.

SUMMER SCHEDULE CHANGE

Please note that there will be NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on First Fridays during the Summer months.



ALTAR FLOWERS

Many thanks for this week's flower donation given in **loving memory of:**
Gerry Murphy
 by
 Ann & Bill Murphy

BREAD AND WINE

Many thanks for this week's donation of Bread & Wine given in **loving memory of:**
Gerry Murphy
 by
 Ann & Bill Murphy



TABERNACLE LIGHT

Many thanks for this week's donation of the Tabernacle Light given in **loving memory of:**
Gerry Murphy
 by
 Ann & Bill Murphy



Dear Parishioners,

A newly ordained priest was having a difficult time getting started preparing his first sermon. He asked his pastor for a suggestion and his pastor told him: "start with something that's certain to grab their attention. For example, you might say: 'some of the best years of my life were spent in the arms of a woman who was someone else's wife.'" The pastor smiled at the young priest's shocked expression, then added "She was my mother." That Sunday the nervous young priest ascended the pulpit, sweating and shaking. Finally he said: "the pastor told me some of the best years of his life were spent in the arms of a woman who was someone else's wife." He was pleased in getting everyone's attention but his nervousness overtook him, his mind went blank and he just blurted out: "For the life of me, I can't remember if he said who she was."

I thought that might be an appropriate start for today's parable about growth. As infants we all spent a lot of time in someone's arms, most probably our parents. But somehow, we grew up, started walking, talking, going to school, then eventually driving, working, getting married perhaps and getting older. When we were young, we couldn't grow up fast enough; now time goes by too fast.

Counting this Sunday's parable, we're going to have three weeks of parables about God's kingdom or as Matthew likes to call it: "the kingdom of heaven". Actually, today's parable is hardly a parable. A parable usually has an unexpected ending. Today's parable is entirely predictable. If we throw seed on the ground, some of it will grow if the climate is agreeable and there is enough sun and moisture. I used the short form of the parable because we've heard it so often and pretty much know how it is interpreted. If we were reading Matthew's gospel from beginning to end, we would see that today's gospel describes the various ways people had been responding to Jesus up to this point in his ministry. He was accused of being possessed, of being a breaker of divine law, and a blasphemer. Some people thought he was a great healer, and having made them well, they went happily on about their business and didn't think any more about him. Some enjoyed his stories and were entertained as long as he was willing to entertain them, but if he asked something difficult of them, they sought other kinds of entertainment. Then there were some who thought he had something worthwhile to say and they continued to listen to him and learn from him.

Jesus was like the farmer sowing the seed. Although he didn't touch all hearts, those whose hearts he touched grew and produced good fruit; that is, their lives were virtuous and pleasing to God. Jesus' message for us in today's parable is to know first of all that the kingdom of heaven is not an entitlement (as a lot of people these days assume it is). Just because the seed of grace has been planted in our hearts, if we do nothing with it, it will die. If it lives in us, it will grow. We know that some of the growth we experience in life, such as growing physically, just happens automatically as we grow older. Other kinds of growth require intentional effort on our part - such as growing in enough knowledge to get a degree or growing in certain skills, such as athletic or artistic, or knowing how to get along socially with others or managing our finances so we can support ourselves.

Growing in God's grace and holiness is like this second kind of growth. It is intentional on our part. It is not accidental. It involves making a choice that Jesus is more important to us than anything or anyone else. It means choosing to believe that he has come to teach us the way to God, and choosing to follow him faithfully. It also involves patience as we wait for the fullness of the kingdom. Just as God has given us the sun and the rain to make the seed grow, so if we put forth the effort spiritually, God will supply the means necessary to produce an extraordinarily abundant harvest in our lives. Investing our lives in him will give us a fantastic return on our investment (30, 60 or 100 fold).

In Christ,
Fr. Gregory

ADVANCE NOTICE
BLOOD DRIVE



The New York Blood Center's inventory is at a critically low level and a Blood Emergency has been declared. There is an urgent need for donors of all blood types to help replenish the supply. Our Lady of Mercy will be sponsoring a BLOOD DRIVE on SUNDAY, August 6, 2017 from 8:45am to 2:45pm in the Parish Hall. The need for available blood is constant.

Consider the experience of this blood recipient: We were having a wonderful evening celebrating our High School graduation. The music, dancing, food, and hilarious conversation was awesome! Then there was the sound of gun shots. I was told that six bullets entered my body. After 100 transfusions and numerous surgical procedures, I survived. I am alive because people I never knew took the time to make the selfless sacrifice of donating their blood, which ultimately gave me the gift of life. I will never be able to express my gratitude to those donors, but I now organize several blood drives a year to encourage others to donate this precious life giving gift. Your donation matters! Please help!

Literature is available, for your review, in the vestibule of the Church. For more information, or to make an appointment to donate, please call Carol Flaherty in the Rectory office (718-268-6143). **Remember to bring your donor card or donor ID number, if you have one, and a photo ID with you on August 6th.**

Volunteers are also needed throughout the day to provide refreshments and support the donors. If you are able to offer an hour or two of your time please leave your name, telephone number and time available at the Rectory office. Your participation would be most appreciated.

RCIA INVITATION

(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

If you, or someone you know, is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, or desires to become a Catholic, the RCIA is a program of welcome, prayer, and reflection that can help you take the next step. This program is also for baptized Catholics who are need of the sacraments First Communion or Confirmation. It is our privilege and joy to help you be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. Please contact David or Carol Powell at 718-261-6285.

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 because of the kindness of those who contributed their old car to the St. Vincent DePaul Society, and mentioned our Church. Please continue to spread the word, and thank you for your support. Call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at 718-491-2525.

DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

July 19, 2017	Healing Mass	7:30 pm
July 26, 2017	Divine Mercy Devotion	7:00 pm

***There will be no Holy Hour for the Divine Mercy for the months of July & August**

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 in 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 items needed: powdered or Parmalat milk, jelly, rice, canned or packaged soups, tuna fish, canned stews, hash, or Spam, Chef Boyardee, packets of pasta & rice "Sides", canned fruits, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, cookies, toothpaste, soaps, shampoos, and any other personal hygiene and non-perishable food items.

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 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.

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.



The Bulletin Board

- The **Diocese of Brooklyn's own NET TV** is a cable network featuring news and information with a Catholic point of view, and is provided by most cable companies in our area. You can also watch the programming live on NET TV's website at www.netny.tv/
- **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.
- **Msgr. McClancy Memorial High School** is now accepting applications for their **summer camps** (Girls softball soccer, basketball & volleyball; Boys baseball, soccer & basketball). Contact Fran Rocco at 718-898-3800, ext. 3. The school is also accepting applications for the **T.A.C.H.S. preparation program** beginning in Sept., and Ms. Rocco is again the contact.
- **St. John's Preparatory School** is offering a **2017 TACHS Prep Course**, which will take place in September. For further information, call the admissions office -718-721-7200, ext. 699.
- **Camp Veritas Play-and-Pray Sleepaways for teens** in Grades 7-12. July 16-22 at Mount Saint Mary College, Newburgh, NY; July 23-29 at Summit Lake Camp, Emmitsburg, MD; August 13-19 at Camp Lakota, Wurstboro NY. \$450/camper. Spiritual program is led by priests from the Archdiocese of New York and supported by Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, Sisters of Life, online at: www.campveritas.com.
- **Summer Retreats are available** Make summertime God's time by attending programs this June and July at the St. Joseph Retreat Center, Staten Island, facilitated by the Daughters of Divine Charity. Book online at www.SJRetreatCenter.org or call 718-720-1097 for per-session pricing or inquire about overnight stays.
- **Home-Delivered Meals** are available if you are **age 60+** and living in NE Queens. Kosher, non-Kosher, Korean and Chinese meals are offered. To see if you or someone you know might qualify, call Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services Northeast Queens at 718-357-4903. This home-delivered meals program is funded by the NYC Department of Aging.
- Let the Lord feed and support your marriage by attending a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend**. The next WWME weekend in our area is September 15-17 in Huntington, New York, at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception. For more information, call Richard and Karen Roginski at 877-697-9963 or visit online at <https://bq-wwme.org>.
- St. Francis Preparatory School will offer a TACHS test preparation course for students sitting for the TACHS exam on November 4th. The course will consist of 5 consecutive classes on Wednesdays from 3:45-5:45pm beginning September 27th. For more info, call Mrs. Nancy Williams, 718-423-8810 ext.214 or email nwilliams@sfponline.org.

CONGRATULATIONS

St. Agnes Academy High School has notified us that our parishioner (previous OLM student) Kendall Joseph has earned Honor Roll status for the third trimester of the 2016-2017 school year.

THE DEANERY CORNER

- **Maggie's Little Theater** will present *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at **St. Margaret Parish Hall** (66-05 79th Pl., Middle Village). Performances will be on July 22, 28, & 29 at 8:00pm and July 23 & 30 at 2:30pm. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors, & \$12 for children. For info & tickets, call 917-579-5389.
- **Our Lady of the Snows** (258-15 80th Ave., Floral Park, NY, 718-347-6070) will celebrate the **Feast of Saint Rocco, Patron of the Sick and Suffering**, with a Mass and Fellowship on August 13th at 3:00pm. For more info, contact Luz E. Rebong at 718-217-9424.
- There will be a **Holy Land Pilgrimage**, November 6-15 with Our Lady of the Angelus' Fr. John Mendonca and Fr. Roberto Mirsal, SVD. Haifa, Tiberias, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem. \$3299 from New York. Call OLA at 718-897-4444 for information
- **The Bereavement Support Group at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs** offers understanding, compassion, and healing for the hurt of losing a loved one. Meetings are the **first and third Mondays** of each month, from 7-9 p.m., in the rectory, and facilitated by Commissioned Lay Pastoral Leader, Yorke Mizelle. Call the OLQM rectory at 718-268-6251 if interested in attending or more info, email ymizelle@nyc.rr.com.
- **Pilgrimage to the Blue Army Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima** on Saturday, September 9th. The Charismatic Prayer Group of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church is sponsoring this pilgrimage for the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady to the three shepherd children of Fatima. Bus leaves for Washington, NJ, for the Marian Festival Celebrating Mary's Birthday at 8 a.m. (sharp), from OLQM Church (corner Ascan Ave. and Queens Blvd) Cost: \$40/person For ticket information, please call any of these prayer group members: Cecile Mendoza: 718-674-6551 or 347-453-4147 Vergie Punto: 917-770-0897 Cely De Borja: 718-255-1654

