

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday July 24th
 8:30 AM Bolivar & Robert Almeida
 12:00 PM Ceil Koluch

Tuesday July 25th
 8:30 AM Michael, Caroline, Michael Sassi Jr. and
 Roland Pugliese
 12:00 PM Victor Lamarque

Wednesday July 26th
 8:30 AM Henry Foertsch
 12:00 PM Mateo Koo (Living Intention)

Thursday July 27th
 8:30 AM Elaine Gonzales (Living Intention)
 12:00 PM In Honor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel & St. Ann

Friday July 28th
 8:30 AM George Vossler
 12:00 PM Jack Haggerty (9th Anniversary)

Saturday July 29th
 8:30 AM Elizabeth Haggerty
 5:00 PM Mary Russomanno

Sunday July 30th
 8:30 AM Susan Maken Van Remmen
 10:00 AM Parish Mass
 12:00 PM Mary O'Malley
 5:00 PM John & Frances DeBiase

**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, Pat Reilly, 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

Herman Muhlman
 Henry J. Smith
 Teodora Fiume

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – July 23rd**

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MONDAY – July 24th

Weekday

TUESDAY - July 25th

Saint James, Apostle

WEDNESDAY – July 26th

Saints Joachim & Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

-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 27th

Weekday

FRIDAY – July 28th

Weekday

SATURDAY – July 29th

Saint Martha

**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.

**BREAD AND WINE**

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

Joan Sauro

by

Her Son, 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.

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.

Dear Parishioners,

A man was suffering from a serious attack of appendicitis. He hated going to the doctor, but his wife would not let him suffer. Finally she got him to a doctor who arranged for an operation. Still in pain and still protesting the idea of an operation, he said to the doctor, *"When God gave people an appendix, there must have been a reason for putting it in our bodies".* "Oh, there was", said the doctor. *"God gave you that appendix so I could put my children through college."*

People of faith tend to believe that God has a reason for everything, even if that reason is not obvious. Sometimes people can't figure out God's plans. They give up trying to understand and decide either God doesn't have any plans or God doesn't have any control or simply they decide there is no God. Most atheists have come to the belief that there is no God because of the problem of evil in the world. Their argument is if there is a good God, then God would not allow all the evil we see. He would stop it, but since there is so much evil, there must not be a good God. Their argument ignores all the good things we see in our world, which far outweigh the evil.

Our first reading from the Book of Wisdom and Jesus' parable of the wheat and the weeds gives us one way to help us understand the problem of evil. It is that God is patient while waiting and urging the evil doers to change their ways. We've all gotten impatient with God at times, thinking God is too patient. In the end, we are grateful that God is patient, for we're all sinners and we have all failed at times. We all try to be the good element in God's kingdom. Otherwise we wouldn't be here in church today. In the course of our lives, if we're honest, we know we haven't been perfect all the time. Thankfully, God is patient and God is merciful. God wishes none to perish as he tells us in the parable of the lost sheep. Today's parable though seems to tell us clearly that some will not be saved.

Jesus' parable last week, the three today, and the three next week are about one of his favorite topics - the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom is the "good news" that Jesus preached. John the Baptist preached about it before him. They both preached that it was near. Yet Jesus also implied it's coming was off in the future for he taught us to pray for its coming. Like the seed in the gospel, it has been planted, it has begun, but it has not fully arrived. It comes about slowly, but the harvest will inevitably come. Jesus preached over and over we can choose on which side we will be at the end. If we want to be on his good side, we must live what he has preached. He loves each of us with a love beyond what we can imagine and wants us to share eternal life with him. That's why he came to us, that's why he died for us, that's why he gives himself to us now as we gather in prayer and receive him in the Eucharist.

The end result of Jesus' work will be huge. That's the point of the other two parables, the mustard seed or a little yeast kneaded into a big batch of flour. Even though Jesus started his community of believers with a handful of people, today there are over two billion people who identify themselves as Christians. Even though not always recognized, God's kingdom is real. He wants us to be part of it and to share in all its blessings because he loves us. Amen

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: At the Brooklyn Diocese Blood Donor Campaign Recognition Ceremony the principle speaker shared her experience of being a blood recipient. She related that within a few months after her birth, she was diagnosed with a type of anemia primarily affecting those of a Mediterranean background. Blood transfusions were the only treatment available to sustain her life. Before she was able to stand she received her first transfusion, and through the years, as symptoms indicating a decreasing blood count presented, she required more transfusions. At present she is 40 years old and has received 2000 blood transfusions. Her profound gratitude and admiration was attributed to all those unknown donors who sustained her life with their precious gift. As you are enjoying these wonderful summer days, please remember you have the ability to give the gift of life to someone in need. 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 (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 26, 2017	Divine Mercy Devotion	7:00 pm
August 02, 2017	Divine Mercy Devotion	7:00 pm
August 09, 2017	Divine Mercy Cenacle	7:00 pm
August 16, 2017	Divine Mercy Devotion	7:00 pm
August 23, 2017	Divine Mercy Cenacle	7:00 pm
August 30, 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.



The Bulletin Board

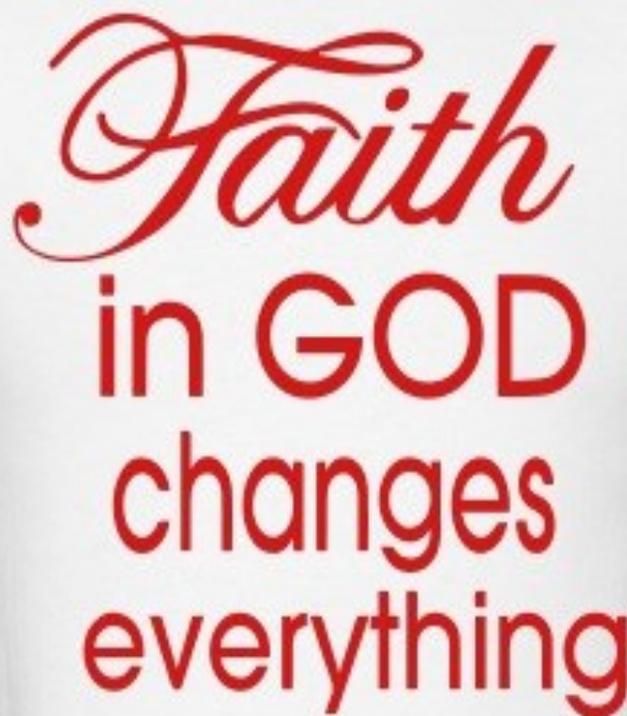
- The **Diocese of Brooklyn's own NET TV** is a cable network featuring news and information with a Catholic point of view, and is provided by most cable companies in our area. You can also watch the programming live on NET TV's website at www.netny.tv/
- **Helpers of God's Precious Infants** at the 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. 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.
- **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.

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.

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



Faith
in GOD
changes
everything