

MASS INTENTIONS

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
Monday	July 31st
8:30 AM	Lureen Brennan (Living Intention)
12:00 PM	Madeline DeMarco
Tuesday	August 1st
8:30 AM	Maria June Chen-Young
12:00 PM	Larry Triolo
Wednesday	August 2nd
8:30 AM	In Honor of the Holy Trinity
12:00 PM	Arthur Savarese
Thursday	August 3rd
8:30 AM	Mass of Thanksgiving
12:00 PM	Margaret Collumb
Friday	August 4th
8:30 AM	Deceased Members of the Mara & Brady Families
12:00 PM	Helen Donnelly
Saturday	August 5th
8:30 AM	Josephine Thompson
5:00 PM	Mary Ann & John Camporese
Sunday	August 6th
8:30 AM	Andy Usischo
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Peter & Elizabeth Ruelius
5:00 PM	Florence Schmuck

**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, Joe Mondel, 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.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – July 30th**

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MONDAY – July 31st

Saint Ignatius of Loyola

TUESDAY - August 1st

Saint Alphonsus Ligouri

WEDNESDAY – August 2nd

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 – August 3rd

Weekday

FRIDAY – August 4th

Saint John Vianney

SATURDAY – August 5th

Weekday

SUMMER SCHEDULE CHANGE

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

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

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our faith community all those who were baptized in the month of June, 2017:

Erin Patricia Carlo

Michael Ayomide DePalo

**MARRIAGES**

Congratulations to the couple married during the month of June, 2017:

Angelo Joseph Massuci Jr.

&

Erica Libertad Balseca Zapatier

**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 woman found a lamp and, as she examined it, out popped a genie. *"Do I get three wishes?"* she asked. *"Nope, I'm a one-wish genie. What will it be?"* She pulled out a map and said *"see this map? I want these countries to stop fighting so we can have world peace."* *"They've been fighting for many centuries. I'm not that good. What else do you have?"* the genie asked the lady. *"Well, I'd like a good man. One who's considerate, loves kids, is filthy rich, likes to cook, and doesn't watch sports all day."* *"Okay,"* the genie said with a sigh. *"Let me see that map again."*

What would we ask for if God or a one-wish genie appeared to us? When Solomon asked for wisdom it shows he was already wise. Unfortunately he didn't keep using his wisdom to serve God's people well. He married too many wives and spent the country into bankruptcy, so much so that when he died the country split into two kingdoms, pretty much isolating the kings who were descendants of David and Solomon. I felt I needed to add that part about Solomon, because having wisdom does not mean we will always make good use of it. Let us return now to today's gospel. This is the third week now we have been hearing parables about the Kingdom of Heaven. What would we be willing to spend all of our money on, like the people in today's gospel? We may think the parables of the treasure and the pearl need no explanation. Certainly Heaven will be all that we could ever desire and more so. But there is a subtle message here that we must not miss. Notice the persons who discovered the treasure and the pearl made it their highest priority. Nothing else was more important. Our search for the kingdom of God has to be our highest priority. Everything we have attained in life or might attain will give us some satisfaction and happiness, but everything is temporary. Entering into the Kingdom of heaven which Jesus has revealed to us is happiness forever. What could be more important than that?

The parable of the fishing net that gathered up good fish as well as bad is very similar to the parable of the wheat and the weeds. Its message is to trust in God's final judgment and to be patient until that time comes. The perennial problem of evil in the world will be resolved. We have to be careful not to give these parables an interpretation that supports John Calvin's form of predestination. It is true, the wheat and the weeds as well as with the good fish and the bad represent two types of things of superior and inferior quality. John Calvin, the founder of Calvinism would argue God creates people that way too and there's nothing any of us can do to change it. In Calvin's view God creates us destined to either heaven or hell, and we cannot change our destiny. To think that way would contradict the entire message of the gospel. We are called to holiness and we have a free will to choose God's grace or to disregard it. Remember it is in Matthew's gospel that we read the account of the Last Judgment where the *"Son of Man"* will separate peoples of all nations inviting one group to enter the kingdom of Heaven and commanding the other to depart from him into the everlasting fire. It is on this basis that they are separated: on the basis of *"what you have done for the least of my brothers and sisters you did it for me."* Weeds can't change their nature, nor can fish that are inedible, but because we are human with a free will, we can change ourselves, with God's help, when our life is going in the wrong direction.

The correct way to think of "predestination" is that we are all predestined to heaven, a place *"prepared for us from the beginning of the world"* as Jesus calls it (Mt. 25,34), but the gospels tell us not everyone lives up to the destiny God has created them for. There is a strange image at the end of the parable about the fish, that the bad fish will be thrown into a furnace of fire. Usually bad fish are just thrown back into the water. This image of being thrown into a furnace of fire and the weeping and gnashing of teeth is symbolic language for eternal suffering. Jesus asked his disciples *"Have you understood all these things?"* Let us pray for the wisdom to understand, not as with the wisdom of Solomon but with the wisdom of a faithful disciple of Jesus. Amen.

In Christ,
Fr. Gregory

BLOOD DRIVE

**GIVE BLOOD
SAVE LIFE**

In June the New York Blood Center declared a Blood Emergency due to their drastically reduced blood reserves. During these summer months, as well as throughout the year, there is an URGENT need for donors of all blood types to maintain an adequate supply. The need for blood is constant. It never takes a vacation.

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.

Among the many reasons for blood transfusions, the majority of us can most likely recall some instance which had a personal impact on us. Many of us have walked the journey with a relative or friend receiving chemotherapy. We have witnessed their physical response to the treatments and the periodic need for transfusions essential to replenish vital blood nutrients and to alleviate their symptoms of distress. **We assume blood, when needed, will always be available. However, this can only happen when and if people like us take the time to donate blood, making the precious gift of life available to others when it is needed. EACH DONATION HELPS THREE PEOPLE.** Last February 45 of our parishioners and neighbors donated their gift of life which gave 135 people a chance to live. **Every donation matters! PLEASE HELP.**

Literature is available, for your review, in the vestibule of the Church. **WALK-INS ARE MOST WELCOME**, or to make an appointment, 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 in 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

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 in the month of 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 28, & 29 at 8:00pm and July 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

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 envelope**. Thank you.

Faith
in GOD
changes
everything