

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	March 11th
8:30 AM	Madeline Wales & Martin Hess (Anniversary)
5:00 PM	William Walters
Sunday	March 12th
8:30 AM	Soli Gharda
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Joan Sauro & Frances & Michael Albano
5:00 PM	Raul Gonzales
Monday	March 13th
8:30 AM	Maria Wasiluk
12:00 PM	Catherine Albert (25th Anniversary)
Tuesday	March 14th
8:30 AM	Maureen Sheehy-Hart
12:00 PM	Fred Parham
Wednesday	March 15th
8:30 AM	Rosa Batista
12:00 PM	Jack Haggerty
Thursday	March 16th
8:30 AM	Casey Smith
12:00 PM	Dorotea Etlanel Gomez
Friday	March 17th
8:30 AM	Nellie & Maurice Rooney
12:00 PM	Clemansa Ardelean
Saturday	March 18th
8:30 AM	Remodios & Luis del Mundo
5:00 PM	Luigi Sauro
Sunday	March 19th
8:30 AM	Michael Minischetti
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Jim Bell
5:00 PM	Julio Alfredo Quiros

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, 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, Jeanne Woods, Michael Daly, Tomo Nakaci, Robert Ryan, Marie Janick, 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

Deacon Daniel Marley
Christina DelGreco
Msgr. John J. Brown
Carmela Colandrea

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

Second Sunday Of Lent

-Lenten Soup Luncheon-Parish Hall at 1:00pm

MONDAY – March 13th

Lenten Weekday

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

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

TUESDAY - March 14th

Lenten Weekday

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

-Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

-Catholicism Series-School Gym at 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY – March 15th

Lenten Weekday

-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 – March 16th

Lenten Weekday

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

FRIDAY – March 17th

Lenten Weekday

-Stations of the Cross– Church at 9:00am & 7:30pm

SATURDAY – March 18th

Lenten Weekday

-St. Patrick & St. Joseph Dinner/Dance-Parish Hall at 6:30pm

**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:

William Walters

by

Aine, Ted, & Mary Walters

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;

Last Tuesday a group of parishioners met in the Church Hall in order to begin viewing the DVD series *Catholicism*, created and narrated by Father (now Bishop) Robert Barron, formerly a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago and now an auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, California. In the opening sequence, Father, in a beautifully scripted and wonderfully scenic setting, starkly confronts the major issue of Christianity: "Who is Jesus?". Is He like other religious leaders? No! Can He be domesticated? No! Is He the simpering person often pictured in religious art and on holy cards. Definitely not! What He demands is complete and resolute devotion. He is God walking among His people in the humanity of the carpenter of Nazareth.

The series opens in an intriguing place called Banias, which is in the Golan Heights of the modern State of Israel. Banias was developed by the Herod kings to please their pagan subjects as well as the imperial authorities in Rome. There was a large shrine there to honor the Greek god, Pan. Pan is often pictured with the hindquarters of a goat and the upper body of a human but with horns. He is often visualized playing a type of flute now called pan pipes. He was the god associated with shepherds, and wild rustic places. He was a free spirit and our modern English word "panic" derives from him. The nearest town, Caesarea Philippi, was also a Herod initiative. The place had a dual name to honor the emperor in Rome and one of the sons of Herod the Great.

To this remote region, Jesus takes the apostles and He questions them: "Who do people say the Son of Man {Jesus} is?" The apostles report that some folks think Jesus is a resuscitated John the Baptist or maybe one of the ancient prophets, like Elijah or Jeremiah, come back to life. Then Jesus gets to the point: "But you, who do you say that I am?" On behalf of the others, Peter answers: "You are the Messiah (the Greek word is "Christ"), the Son of the living God." For this affirmation of the foundational faith, Peter is given authority over the nascent Christian community. His profession will be the rock or foundation on which that early community rests. Jesus, while not denying His messiahship, tendered to shy away from the word "Messiah" because in His time it had political connotations.

The Gospel for this second Sunday of Lent strikes the same theme. Jesus ascends Mount Tabor with three of the apostles, Peter, James and John. He is transfigured before them. Matthew, throughout His Gospel, was anxious to illustrate that Jesus was the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies. Previously Matthew had pictured Jesus ascending a mountain to announce the Beatitudes as the fulfillment of the Law, which Moses had received many centuries previously when He climbed Mount Sinai to meet the living God. Now that same Moses appears with Jesus, as does Elijah, representing the prophetic tradition in Judaism. The point was not lost on the apostles - Jesus fulfills the Law and the prophets. Peter again immediately suggests building three shrine-like tents, one for each of the visionary figures. A bright cloud alights on the mountain and from it a voice identifies Jesus as "... My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him!" From the time of the Exodus, a shimmering cloud announced the divine Presence.

Especially in this Lenten season, we must ask: "Who Jesus is? And if our answer is in harmony with the answer of Peter and the Church, then what choice do we have but to listen to Him. This is God, Who created all things and Who led the people of Israel to become a magnet for all the nations. In the full humanity of Jesus, God strolls among us. If that is true then what He has to say, what He teaches and how He acts, are the words and actions of God in our midst, but in human terms. He is not simply another spiritual "guru". He isn't simply another spiritual leader among many. He is God among His people.

Lent is that season when we refocus our vision on what we truly believe about Jesus. Lent culminates in the Easter celebrations when that most unlikely Messiah is raised up and vindicated by God. If the Resurrection had not taken place, who would take seriously a messiah killed by His enemies? The question Jesus asked His disciples would be meaningless and Peter's answer all the more preposterous.

In the same Christ,
Monsignor John A. McGuirl

DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

March 15, 2017	Devine Mercy Chaplet Benediction	7:00pm 8:00pm
March 22, 2017	Divine Mercy Cenacle	7:00 pm
March 29, 2017	Divine Mercy Devotion	7:00 pm

ALMSGIVING DURING LENT**Clothing Drive****What's in your closet?**

Do you have lots of extra clothes in your closet at home? Feel like you need to do some spring cleaning? Bring those clothes you don't wear anymore to the St. Vincent DePaul truck that will be located in front of Our Lady of Mercy Church on Sunday, April 2nd 2017 from 8:00am to 1:30pm. Your donated clothes will go to the needy and less fortunate.

Blessing

Deacon Dean Dobbins

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

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 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

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. Please see fliers 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

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 items needed: cereal, peanut butter, jelly, mac & cheese, rice, pasta, canned soups, tuna fish, Chef Boyardee, canned fruits, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, cookies, toothpaste, soaps, and any other personal hygiene and non-perishable food items.

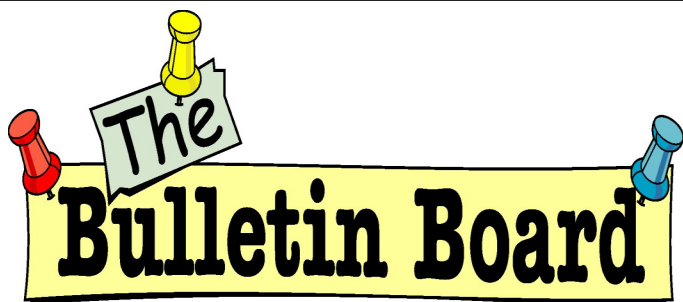
Food Pantry Hours are: 10:00am-11:00am every Saturday



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.

Peace, Hope, Love

Deacon Dean Dobbins



The Bulletin Board

- **Have you been looking for a way to be more present in our parish community? Stop by and chat with a member of the Knights of Columbus after all Masses this weekend.**
- **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.
- **The 112th Precinct Community Council** invites everyone to their next meeting on March 15th at 7:30pm, at the Precinct House, where Capt. Ramos will discuss outstanding safety issues and concerns.
- **Maggie's Little Theater** at St. Margaret Parish (66-05-79th Place in Middle Village) will present their Spring production of "Something's Afoot" on the weekends from March 18th through March 26th. Adults -\$20, Seniors-\$15, Children-\$12. For reservations call 917-579-5389.
- The **Kiwanis Club of Forest Hills** will be sponsoring their annual **Breakfast with the Easter Bunny** March 26th, from 10:00am to 1:30pm, at Our Lady of Mercy's Parish Hall. Adults: \$8, Children under 13: \$5, Children under 2: free.
- The **Forest Hills Civic Association** will meet on April 4th at Our Lady of Mercy Parish Hall at 7:30pm. **George Hu from NYC Finance will speak on the home and apartment real estate tax situation All are invited. Have your questions ready!**
- 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 rmaloney@blmhs.org.
- The **Vincentian Leadership Institute** at **St. John's University** will be offering a weeklong residential program for **high school students**, this coming Summer, entitled *Faith and Service in the City*. For info contact Joann Heaney-Hunter at heaneyhj@stjohns.edu



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!!!!

THE DEANERY CORNER

- **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 OLMQ rectory (718-268-6251) during business hours
- There will be a **Vocation Retreat with Bishop DiMarzio** Friday to Sunday, March 24-26 At the Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston (7200 Douglaston Parkway). Encounter Jesus Christ, hear inspiring talks from Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio and seminarians, and reflect on your own vocation. For more information contact Rev. Sean M. Suckiel, Director of Vocations, by email or phone: 718-827-2454, vocations@diobrook.org.
- 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 OLMQ. 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

LENTEN REGULATIONS

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

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.