

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	March 25th
8:30 AM	Jorge Bonilla
5:00 PM	May Chocko
Sunday	March 26th
8:30 AM	Taciana Pinero Uy
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Nicholas Tommaso
5:00 PM	Julio Alfredo Quiros
Monday	March 27th
8:30 AM	Lourdes Blondett
12:00 PM	Michael, Caroline, Michael Stassi Jr. and Roland Pugliese
Tuesday	March 28th
8:30 AM	Josef Grebowiec
12:00 PM	Wilson Ortiz
Wednesday	March 29th
8:30 AM	Susan R. Porzio
12:00 PM	Andrew Carlson
Thursday	March 30th
8:30 AM	Nora Soriano
12:00 PM	Mia Trumata
Friday	March 31st
8:30 AM	Benjamin Soriano
12:00 PM	Clotilde Lamarque
Saturday	April 1st
8:30 AM	George Van Nostrand Sr.
5:00 PM	Louis A. Sauro
Sunday	April 2nd
8:30 AM	Taciana Pinero Uy
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Jack Bernardone
5:00 PM	Carol Pusano

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, Joel Rivera, Jim Zalas, Peggy Racanelli, JoAnn Sienkiewicz, 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

Msgr. Michael Dempsey
Declan Butler
EMT Yadira Arroyo

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

Fourth Sunday Of Lent

-Breakfast With the Easter Bunny-Parish Hall at 9:00am
-Living Rosary-Sorrowful Mysteries-12:00pm Mass

MONDAY – March 27th

Lenten Weekday

-Rich In Mercy Prayer Group-Church at 7:30pm
-Scripture Study-Rectory Meeting Room I at 7:30pm

TUESDAY - March 28th

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 29th

Lenten Weekday

-Exercise Class-Parish Hall at 9:00am
-Golden Age-Parish Hall at 12:30pm - **All Are Welcome**
-CCD K thru 6-Church at 3:30pm
-Divine Mercy-Church at 7:00pm
-OLMCA Family Fun Night-School Gym at 6:30

THURSDAY – March 30th

Lenten Weekday

-CCD 7th Gr.-Rel. Ed. Office at 3:45pm
-Boy Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

FRIDAY – March 31st

Lenten Weekday

-Stations of the Cross– Church at 9:00am & 7:30pm
-Girl Scouts-Parish Hall at 4:00pm & 6:00pm
-Performance of *Cavalleria Rusticana*-Church at 8:00pm

SATURDAY – April 1st

Lenten Weekday

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

**TABERNACLE LIGHT**

Many thanks for this week's donation of the
Tabernacle Light given in **loving memory of:**

Joseph Arecchia

by

Judy & Joseph M. Arecchia

EASTER FLOWERS

As we did at Christmas, we are providing an opportunity for families to memorialize a loved one by making a donation of \$150.00 for Easter flowers. Names of all those memorialized will be published in our Bulletin, and flowers will remain on the altar and in Church for at least 3 weeks. Each donation will help us provide flowering plants (lilies, azaleas, and tulips) for our altar decor. Help make this Easter magnificent! Arrangements can be made by contacting the Rectory Office at 718-268-6143.



Dear Parishioners;

Again this week we have a glimpse into St. John's Gospel. A characteristic literary device of that Gospel is the use of word-play. John often has his Gospel take place on two parallel levels. The tension between the two levels usually yields to the truth. Last week we read of the Samaritan woman. She was the member of a despised minority. She was a woman at a time when the public testimony of a woman was unacceptable. Yet it is she who slowly clarifies her belief. In progression, she addresses Jesus as a Jew, then as rabbi, then as prophet, and finally as the Messiah. This unexpected "convert" then leads her entire village to Jesus while His own disciples remain comparatively blind.

A similar situation is presented in today's Gospel. This time, we have a man, blind from birth, who grows in his faith while those who have physical sight remain spiritually blind. Blindness or other physical handicaps were thought to be the result of sinfulness, either on the part of the victim or his ancestors. Consistently Jesus opposes this way of thinking as He does in the opening lines of today's Gospel. This Gospel involves considerable "give and take" between the main characters. Yet ultimately it is the sighted Pharisees who will not see what stares them in the face - that Jesus is accomplishing God's work. Because He did God's work on the Sabbath, God's Day, they accuse Him of breaking the Law which prohibited work on the Sabbath. What better day to do God's work than on God's Day? Like the Samaritan woman last week, the blind man progresses in belief from "the man called Jesus", to "he is a prophet", to "Son of Man" and finally to "Lord". Meanwhile the Pharisees remained mired in their stubborn ignorance.

At this point in our Lenten readings, it might be wise to issue a warning: John's use of the word "Jews". He seems to use it in a pejorative manner. John's is the last of the Gospels to be written - possibly as late as 100 A.D. - that is about seventy years after the Resurrection. By his time, the divisions illustrated in today's Gospel had become pronounced. Those who accepted Jesus as the Messiah found that a welcome was lacking in many synagogues. The division between Jews who accepted Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah and those who did not had led to considerable bad feeling, which is reflected in today's Gospel. It is prudent to recall that almost all the characters in the Gospels were Jews. Our Lord Himself hailed from a Jewish background. Mary and Joseph, all the apostles and most of Jesus' earliest followers came from the Jewish community. The teachings and even the liturgy of the Church are rooted in Jewish customs, traditions and beliefs. It is virtually impossible to understand Jesus' teachings without a sufficient knowledge of Jewish beliefs and customs. Without that knowledge, we remain blind to much of the Gospel message. The reference to the Jews in today's passages and in most of St. John's Gospel usually refers to our Lord's opponents, such as some of the Pharisees (but not all of them). Our Lord's earliest followers were Jews, including some of the Pharisees ("...who were with Him...").

In Christ,
Monsignor John A. McGuirl

PRAY FOR RCIA CANDIDATES

At the Easter Vigil Mass this year, **Daishantie Glennon** and **Edward Green** will be fully initiated through the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. They will be presented to the community at the 5 pm Mass on April 1st. Please remember them in your Lenten prayers and practices. Also pray for **Eduardo Hernandez** as he prepares to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Easter Vigil too.

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.

ALMSGIVING DURING LENT



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.

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

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

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

- **Brand new stair lift available** for someone who is in need of one. Former parishioner selling house and looking for someone who could use the lift. Please contact the rectory for more info.
- **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.
- **Holy Child Jesus Church** (111-02 86th Avenue, Richmond Hill) will be holding a **Rummage Sale**. Preview Night (\$5 entrance fee) is Friday, 3/31, 7-9pm and the sale continues Saturday, 4/1, 9am-6pm and Sunday 4/2, 9am-4pm. Any questions contact the Parish Office at 718-847-1860.
- 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.
- **Molloy College** (1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre, NY 516-323-4000) will host a **Spring Open House** on April 30th at 1:00pm.
- 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 HAS SPRUNG!!!



Now that St. Patrick and St. Joseph celebrations have been completed, we are now in full swing preparing for the Spring Fling on the evening of May 5th, the day of May 6th and the morning of May 7th. It takes quite an effort to make this event a success. Would you consider volunteering some time either behind the scenes (set up, decorating etc.) or up front manning

booths (plants, new items, Pete's Garage Sale)? A great way to have some fun and meet and greet people from different neighborhoods. **We will be holding a short planning meeting on April 1st at 11:00 AM** should you consider joining the effort. **(Many hands make light work and have fun doing it!).**

We are also seeking vendors to showcase their items. It is a great opportunity as a vendors to assist shoppers who are looking for unique handmade items as well as those who are looking for that unique gift for Mother's Day. Mother's Day is on May 9th. If you are interested in being a vendor, call the Rectory at 718-268-6142 and let us know. We'd love to have you join us for this happy event!

DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

March 29, 2017	Divine Mercy Devotion	7:00pm
April 05, 2017	Divine Mercy Devotion	7:00pm
April 12, 2017	No Activity	
April 19, 2017	Divine Mercy Cenacle	7:00pm
April 23, 2017	DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY	
	Benediction & Exposition of Blessed Sacrament	1:30pm
April 26, 2017	Divine Mercy Devotion	7:00pm

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

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 OLM. For tickets, call: Virgie Punto 917-770-0897; Nellie Milite 718-704-3862. Or visit our-ladyqueenofmartyrs.org/dmpilgrimage2017. Don't Miss Out! First Come, First Serve.



LENTEN REGULATIONS

Lent began 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.