

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	January 14th
8:30 AM	Mary Foertsch
5:00 PM	Richard Genova
Sunday	January 15th
8:30 AM	Mary R. Allraum
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Jim Beam
5:00 PM	John Saver & John Hickey
Monday	January 16th
8:30 AM	Joseph Souzzi
12:00 PM	Margaret Vanderbeck
Tuesday	January 17th
8:30 AM	Geraldine Murphy
12:00 PM	Elizabeth Nwahiri Anyanwu
Wednesday	January 18th
8:30 AM	Louis & Pauline Pfohl
12:00 PM	Howard Haider
Thursday	January 19th
8:30 AM	Isabella Minischetti (35th Anniversary)
12:00 PM	Jennette Markey
Friday	January 20th
8:30 AM	Vincent Sileo, Jr.
12:00 PM	Sr. Noemi Kreppein (2nd Anniversary)
Saturday	January 21st
8:30 AM	Serafina Sauro
5:00 PM	Nora Calderon
Sunday	January 22nd
8:30 AM	Vincent Ortiz (Living Intention)
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Robert M. Sitler, Jr.
5:00 PM	Margaret Vanderbeck

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Vincent Lucanie, Roberta Papagni, Bernadette Boyle, Brene Brown, James Leung, Chantel Fernandes, Alice Coleman, Robert & Mary Tardona, Ken Kirwin, Christopher Tolve, Roseann Salerno, Bishop Cisneros, Rose Jonsson, Larry Ginsberg, Antoinette Wagner, Richard Kelly, Frank & Carolyn Kalnberg, Josie Bellina, Vera Garofalo, Gladys Sanchez, Mary J. Riley, Enrico D. Montesa, John O'Driscoll, Marilyn Jagiello, Eleanor Murray, Jean Strifler, Ava Cautin, Patrick Norton, JoAnn Gatch, Isabel Azzaro, Jim Redmond, Ann Rung 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); Chief Ajay James, U.S. Navy NSW; 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

Detective Steven McDonald

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – January 15th**

Second Sunday In Ordinary Time

-1st String Players Present: "Review Of Broadway Show Tunes"-
Parish Hall at 3:00pm

MONDAY – January 16th

Weekday

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

ALL BUILDINGS CLOSED

TUESDAY - January 17th

Saint Anthony, Abbot

-Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY – January 18th

Weekday

-Exercise Class-Parish Hall at 9:00am

-OLMCA Mass-Church at 10:00am

-Golden Age-Parish Hall at 12:30pm - **All Are Welcome**

-CCD K thru 6-Church at 3:30pm

-Divine Mercy-Church at 7:00pm

THURSDAY – January 19th

Weekday

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

-Boy Scouts-School Gym at 7:00pm

-Baptism Meeting– Rectory at 7:30pm

FRIDAY – January 20th

Weekday

-Girl Scouts-Parish Hall at 4:00pm & 6:00pm

SATURDAY – January 21st

Saint Agnes, Virgin & Martyr

-Baptism-Church at 1:00pm

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

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.

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 front.** Thank you

Dear Parishioners;

Last Monday on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the Church entered into what is called "Ordinary Time". The vestments return to the customary green color and except for some special feast days, we are in "ordinary time" until Ash Wednesday, which is on March 1st. But "ordinary time" is when we live out our Christian commitment. It is lived in the ordinary everyday activities of life. Sure, there are the grand moments on the big feasts but most of life is ordinary.

The foundation stone of Christianity is that God brings forth the extraordinary from the ordinary. The Messiah is born in a stable to a peasant couple in a small backwater town of a troublesome province of the Roman Empire. He is not born into the royal Herod family appointed by Rome as "rulers of Israel". Rather He follows His foster father in the trade of a craftsman or carpenter. His life is cloaked in obscurity until His last three years of "public ministry". Even His miracles were geared to assist ordinary people to resume their normal lives. Most of the people He healed or exorcised were common folk. Most of His words of compassion and inclusion were spoken to the poor and the socially outcast. Most likely the reason many folks could not accept Him was that He was too ordinary! No army, no government, no royal throne, no kingly entourage - what kind of Messiah is this? Yes, related distantly to the ancient King David but certainly very much unlike him in lifestyle. This ordinary Man is the image of Almighty God - indeed from the seemingly ordinary, comes the most extraordinary.

Last Tuesday, another "ordinary" man died from the results of a heart attack. That man was a third generation police officer, Steven McDonald. Like thousands of other policemen and women, he went to work every day placing his life on the line for the rest of us. Yet in that very human way of thinking, he probably never imagined that he might be the direct victim of crime in our City. In 1986, as the result of a routine investigation into a bicycle theft, Officer McDonald was unexpectedly shot by one of the perpetrators. Three bullets pieced this newly married young officer. He and his wife, Patti-Ann, were expecting their first child, Conor. The bullets did irreparable damage to Officer McDonald's body. He was rendered a quadriplegic. His life and that of his wife, Patti-Ann, were changed in a way that neither of them could have foreseen. Much of what married couples could expect was denied them. Steven would never hold his new born son in his arms nor play a father-son game of catch. While much of his body was damaged, his heart and his mind were not. Rather than anger and bitterness, which might well have been the reaction of most people, Steven McDonald saw his life as a witness to forgiveness and unity. In this he was sustained and nourished by our Catholic faith. Like any person he wondered at the workings of God's plan and yet he saw Himself as an icon of God's desire for human happiness.

He started his "new" life by forgiving the young man who shot him. In fact they had been in touch on numerous occasions. The energy that his body permitted him was dedicated to bringing about a greater respect for all life and the resolution of the differences that often mar human existence. He spoke to thousands of high school students urging them to develop their potential for good. Dependent on others for every physical need, he became a symbol of our reliance on one another for survival. He gave his quiet witness at the funerals of fellow officers particularly those who like himself were injured in the line of duty. He could be counted on for his presence at Pro-Life Rallies and Prayer Vigils throughout our City. His faith anchored him and enabled him to go forward with the belief that his physical handicaps need not handicap his soul. His message of forgiveness and peace was even brought to the people of Northern Ireland, Bosnia and the Middle East. Steven McDonald, like most police officers, entered the service to make a difference in people's lives and for the thirty years since the shooting, he has done so with grace and dignity. In that He shadowed the Lord's own ministry of bringing forth the extraordinary from the ordinary.

Denis Hamill, *The NY Daily News* columnist, in the issue of January 11th, quoted Officer McDonald in an interview with the *News*: "My simple understanding is that God has asked me to be a witness to do His will in this world...and I think that's my life". He did see his own son enter the New York City Police Department and he was present when Conor was recently promoted to Detective Sergeant. The dedication and support of his wife, Patti-Ann and his son, Conor, permitted Steven to be a witness to the world. They gave him to us and in return they are owed the prayers and thoughts of every New Yorker.

Christ was the icon of the Father's love and Steven McDonald was an icon of the Savior with Whom he was identified in his long passion. That passion has ended in his fifty-ninth year. Identified with Jesus here, let us pray that now Steven McDonald is joined with His Lord in a glorious new birth in eternity. Indeed, for Steven "the strife is over, the battle done" but he leaves us an indelible witness of what true Christianity really is. May he rest in peace!

In Christ,
Monsignor John A. McGuirl

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Confirmation Affirmation Mass will take place on Sunday, January 22nd at 12:00 pm. All Confirmation students are required to attend. We ask that students please arrive no later than 11:45am. Thank you!

SAVE THE DATES FOR:

ST. PATRICK AND ST. JOSEPH PARTY
Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-Ral and Tarantellas

Save Saturday, March 18, 2017 from 6:30 to 10:30 PM for celebrating two great saints , St. Patrick and St. Joseph – right smack between their feast days (they do not mind !) with music , food, dance and drink , in the Lower Church Hall. Music and Dance led by DJ Tim O’Brien , who swears his mother was part – Italian . All brought to you by OLM’s very own Party-in-a-Bag , *MaraGold Productions* , Jim Mara and Helen Van Tine-Golden. More info and reservation fliers to follow soon.To be part of the planning fun and for additional details, please contact Jim or Helen at 718-793-2033. It’s an offer you can’t refuse.

&

OLM BLOOD DRIVE

Our Lady of Mercy will be sponsoring a Blood Drive on Sunday, February 26, 2017 from 8:45am to 2:45pm, in the Parish Hall. Please mark your calendars now, and watch the bulletin in the coming weeks for more details.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

ATTENTION YOUNG PEOPLE GRADE 3 AND UP (who have been baptized and have received First Holy Communion): Since Church Law demands that there be a server on the altar for every Mass, **Altar Service is a very important liturgical ministry**, and we need more here at OLM. There are Registration Forms in the back of the Church containing more information, and you can contact Fr. Gregory at the Rectory. Please realize that serving our parish in this ministry is a really a privilege, and consider joining the group.

OLM MUSICAL NOTES

We are pleased to announce the **beginning of our choir season**. 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 Pantry Hours are:10:00am–11:00am every Saturday

We are called to action by the Holy Scriptures to feed the hungry and satisfy their thirst see (Isaiah 58:10, Matthew 25:35). But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous. (Luke 14:13-14).

Peace, Joy, Hope
Deacon Dean Dobbins

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.

FATHER JOHN’S FAREWELL CONCERT

Many of you may be aware that Fr. John Sheehan, SJ, who has been residing at OLM during the past year, will be leaving for a new assignment in Jordan on February 8th. For the past 9 years, in addition to running the Xavier Society for the Blind, Fr. John has sung with several opera and theatrical groups, and given concerts at a number of venues throughout New York. On January 17th, at 7:30pm, he will be singing a farewell Concert at Scandinavia House on Park Avenue in NYC. For information about the concert, tickets, and the opportunity to have dinner before, go to:
<http://basorunde2.mylivesites.net>

DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

January 18, 2017	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament	7:00pm
	Divine Mercy Chaplet	7:30pm
January 25, 2017	Divine Mercy Devotion	7:00pm
February 1, 2017	Divine Mercy Devotion	7:00 pm
February 8, 2017	Divine Mercy Cenacle	7:00 pm
February 15, 2017	Devine Mercy Chaplet	7:00pm
	Benediction	8:00pm
February 22, 2017	Divine Mercy Devotion	7:00 pm

OUR LADY OF MERCY
CATHOLIC ACADEMY NEWS

PRE-K FOR ALL!

The Pre-K application period for the 2017-18 school year will be open between January 17 and February 24, 2017. All NYC families with children born in 2013 are eligible to apply to Pre-K. Offer letters will be distributed in late April 2017.

In free, full-day, high-quality Pre-K, teachers are sparking wonder and igniting learning in our children. Pre-K for All gives children stronger math and reading skills in elementary school and a better chance at success in life. Studies show that early childhood education improves performance throughout a child's school experience.

You can apply for Pre-K For All at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy by visiting the website at: schools.nyc.gov/Applyonline. You can find more information on page 115 of the Pre-Kindergarten directory. If you are in need of an additional directory, please let us know.

The office staff is more than happy to assist you in filling out an application. Please call us at 718-793-2086 to schedule a time that is convenient for you. We look forward to the opportunity to continue to provide your child with an excellent education at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy. Thank you.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy is seeking Substitute Teachers with 1 year or more experience in the field. If you are a retired teacher, we would love to have you! If you are interested in substituting as needed, please contact Dana McCann at dmccann@olmercyca.com.

CALLING ALL OLM ALUMNI!

As the 50th anniversary of Our Lady of Mercy draws closer, we are thinking about our alumni now more than ever. We know that you are making an impact on the world both near and far. Whether you graduated in 2016 or 50 years ago, we value you and want to hear from you!

Our goal is to create a database of all our alumni. Please visit our website: <http://olmercyca.org/> or e-mail our new principal, Dana McCann, at dmccann@olmercyca.com with your updated contact information. We look forward to hearing from you!

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, the most recent being just last month, because of the kindness of those who contributed their old car to the St. Vincent DePaul Society. Thank you for your participation, and please continue to spread the word. Call **St. Vincent de Paul at (718)491-2525**

Announcements and Upcoming Events

- **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 Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn's PRO VITA MASS**, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, will be celebrated on **January 28, 2017 at 5:00pm**. Join the Knights of Columbus of Kings and Queens Counties at **St. James Cathedral-Basilica in Brooklyn** to celebrate the gift of life and pray for respect for life at all stages.
- **Ozanam Hall of Queens Nursing Home** (42-41 201st St., Bayside) is seeking part time Activity Leaders. No Experience necessary, but good verbal/writing skills as well as interpersonal skills in working with the senior population are required. If interested, please call Marilyn Gindi at 718-971-2708

THE DEANERY CORNER

- The **Single Adults** Group at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs welcomes new members (never married, separated/divorced or widowed). The group generally meets in the OLQM parish rectory on the second Saturday of the month at 1:30 p.m. Call the group's hotline **718-361-3201** for more information. Or download the group's calendar at ourladyqueenofmartyrs.org/single-adults-group/ for a full listing of social, spiritual, cultural and service activities. Our Lady Queen of Martyrs is located at 110-06 Queens Boulevard between Ascan Avenue and 72nd Road in Forest Hills.
- **Bereavement Support** in a Group Setting at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs (110-06 Queens Boulevard). The bereavement support group is for anyone who has experienced a recent loss of a loved one and especially those seeking spiritual comfort. We offer a caring environment and hope; we are non-judgmental and respect privacy in all aspects of the grieving process and point toward healing. Meetings are typically the first and third Mondays of the month, from 7-9 p.m. in the rectory basement meeting room. Scheduled meeting dates: for 2017, January 9&23, February 6, March 6&20. Meetings are free and facilitated by Commissioned Lay Minister Yorke Mizelle. If interested in attending, please call the OLQM rectory at **718-268-6251** or email ymizelle@nyc.rr.com for additional information or questions
- **St. Margaret Church** will be sponsoring a Blood Drive on Sunday, January 22, 2017 from 9:00am to 3:00pm in their Parish Hall

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.