

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday December 31st
 8:30 AM Millie Medina
 5:00 PM William Walters
 8:00 PM Latin/English Mass

Sunday January 1st
 8:30 AM No
 10:00 AM Personal
 12:00 PM Intentions
 NO 5:00 PM MASS

Monday January 2nd
 8:30 AM Sarah Davey
 12:00 PM Norma Escolin

Tuesday January 3rd
 8:30 AM Nellie Rooney
 12:00 PM James Joseph Bell

Wednesday January 4th
 8:30 AM Jack & Elizabeth Haggerty
 12:00 PM Gerry Murphy

Thursday January 5th
 8:30 AM Josephine Belleri
 12:00 PM William & Florance Parham

Friday January 6th
 8:30 AM Eleanor & James Mara
 12:00 PM Patricia Taglioni

Saturday January 7th
 8:30 AM Mary Russomanno
 5:00 PM John Daly

Sunday January 6th
 8:30 AM Robert Casaccio
 10:00 AM Parish Mass
 12:00 PM Gerry Murphy
 5:00 PM George Shookster

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Vincent Lucanie, Roberta Papagni, Bernadette Boyle, Brene Brown, James Leung, Chantel Fernandes, Alice Coleman, Robert & Mary Tardona, Ken Kirwin, Robert Barrett, Domenico DiBella, Vito Avvinti, 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, 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

Nicholas Tomasso, Sr.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

SUNDAY – January 1st
Solemnity Of Mary, The Holy Mother Of God

MONDAY – January 2nd
Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen
 -Rich In Mercy Prayer Group-Church at 7:30pm
 -Scripture Study-Rectory Meeting Room I at 7:30pm

TUESDAY - January 3rd
Christmas Weekday
 -Centering Prayer-Rectory Meeting Room at 2:30pm & 6:15pm
 -Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY – January 4th
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
 -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-Rectory Meeting Room at 7:00pm

THURSDAY – January 5th
Saint John Neumann
 -CCD 7th Gr.-Rel. Ed. Office at 3:45pm
 -Boy Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

FRIDAY – January 6th
Christmas Weekday
 -Girl Scouts-Parish Hall at 4:00pm & 6:00pm

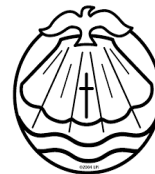
SATURDAY – January 7th
Christmas Weekday

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

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our faith community all those who were baptized in the month of December, 2016:

Nicholas Sanchez
Camila Sanchez
Kyle Cooper Meyer



BREAD AND WINE

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

Theresa Cariello (Happy Birthday)
by
Mrs. Andrew Cariello



TABERNACLE LIGHT

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

Theresa Cariello (Happy Birthday)
by
Mrs. Andrew Cariello



Dear Parishioners;

No parish can run simply on the basis of its clergy. The role of the laity is extremely important! The laity are ninety-nine percent of the Church. In contrast, religious brothers or sisters and both religious order priests and those incardinated in a particular Diocese (Our Diocese is the Diocese of Brooklyn and both of your parish priests are diocesan priests) are the other one percent.

Yet if there were no laity you would not need the services of that one percent so it stands to reason that the one percent can not proclaim and celebrate the Gospel on their own. In any given parish, without the cooperation, support and energy of the laity, very little can be accomplished. The end of 2016 and the beginning of 2017 is an appropriate time to publically thank our many parishioners who not only worship with us but also contribute their time, talent and ideas to make Our Lady of Mercy Parish all that it is.

First many thanks to our rectory office staff. We have only one full-time office employee, Mrs. Dian Malm. On apart-time basis she is assisted by Ms. Carol Flaherty, Mrs. Sandy Luongo and several young evening receptionists. Our parish would be in a very poor place were it not for our two maintenance engineers, Tom Lambert and Jason Beaudry. These gentlemen are in charge of the entire maintenance of the rectory, Church, Church Hall, Academy and the Marist Brothers residence on Juno Street. Without them the parish would grind to a halt very quickly. On a nightly basis their efforts are joined by those of the night cleaners in the school building. I wish also to thank the "Altar Angels" and "Linen Ladies", who not only voluntarily keep our Church beautiful and clean but also assist in decorating the Church at Easter and Christmas.

A sincere word of appreciation to our sacristans: James Mara and Gerry Homes. They divide the week and are on line for the preparation of all liturgical services. Additionally with the assistance of our maintenance team they are also responsible for the beautiful decorations in our Church during this sacred season.

The liturgy would be much less impressive except for the dedication of our choirs: adult and children, under the leadership of our director of music, Ms. Jane Lawson. A word of thanks to the hidden people: our trustees: Mr. James Harding and Mr. James Redmond; the members of our Finance Board and Parish Council. Under the direction of our new principal, Ms. Dana McCann, the volunteer Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy Governance Board is responsible for the policies of the school, also for its continued Catholic identity as well as the care of the fabric of the building.

Every day of the week our liturgies are celebrated with reverence and grace because of the assistance of our lectors, altar servers, extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and ushers. Thanks go to several Eucharistic ministers who also bring our Lord to those who are homebound or ill. Every Mass of the Resurrection is attended by members of our Consolation Ministry. They make it their responsibility to assist our bereaved brothers and sisters at one of the more difficult moments of life. Similarly several members of the Consolation Ministry visit each wake in order to offer their support and prayers on behalf of the parish. They also obtain pertinent information about the deceased in so that the celebrant can personalize his remarks during the Mass of the Resurrection.

Our parish programs would not exist except for the active participation of their leadership: the directors, coaches, drivers and others who assist in the Basketball and Tri-M Swim Programs. Also thanks go to The Ad Hoc Social Committee which often arranges our fellowship and hospitality on Sundays and other days of the year. A word of thanks to Mr. David James, who is the Youth Minister for Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs Parish and St. Margaret's Parish in Middle Village. Similarly thanks to the leadership of the Golden Age Group which though centered at Our Lady Mercy also serves the folks at Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs. Also a word of appreciation must go to the leadership of the St. Lawrence Ruiz Society.

Under the direction of Deacon Dean Dobbins, the Pastoral Ministry Program, especially the Food Pantry is flourishing. It would not be so except for the generous contributions of many people in the Forest Hills/Rego Park Communities as well our volunteers, who are from our parish as well as Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs Parish.

If I have omitted anyone, please accept my apologies but do let me know so that you can be properly acknowledged next week. Thank you one and all and may the Lord bless your generosity of spirit during the New Year of 2017. On behalf of Father Greg, Deacons Ed and Dean and our entire staff, we wish you and yours a very blessed New Year.

In Christ,
Monsignor John A. McGuirl

BAPTISM REUNION MASS

On Sunday, January 8th, we will hold our annual Baptism Reunion at the 12:00 Noon Mass. All who were baptized here during 2016, babies, children and adults, are invited to attend the Mass to be presented to the community and receive a special blessing. Godparents, family members and friends are also invited to join in the celebration. Light refreshments will be served at a reception in the Parish Hall following Mass to give everyone a chance to socialize and meet the newest members of our faith community and their families. Plan on joining us!

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

DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

January 04, 2017	Divine Mercy Devotion	7:00 pm
January 11, 2017	Divine Mercy Cenacle	
January 18, 2017	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament	7:00pm
	Divine Mercy Chaplet	7:30pm
January 25, 2016	Divine Mercy Devotion	7:00pm

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.

**FOOD PANTRY**

The Our Lady of Mercy Food Pantry 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.

Your donations help us keep the shelves stocked so we can provide nutritious food for our needy neighbors in and around our community. 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 10:00 am – 11:00 am every Saturday of the month.**

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.

OLMCA NEWS**PRE-K FOR ALL!**

We still have seats available for Pre-K for All for the 2016-17 school year. If you know a family that might be interested in our program, please contact Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy directly. If your child will be 4 years old on or before December 31, they will be eligible for our enriching and fun full day program!

Pre-K for All (PKA) is excellent, high quality Pre-K education for 4-year-olds, available at **no cost**, regardless of household income. Offered in partnership with New York State and local public school districts, PKA is designed to help more children begin their education at an early age and get a solid start on the road to active learning – and it's completely free!

We are more than happy to answer your questions or schedule a tour. Thank you in advance!

For more information, contact Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy at 718-793-2086

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!

The mission of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy flows from the Church's participation in the mission of Jesus. As a hope-filled community, we are committed to providing academic excellence integrated with a vision of life and learning centered in the Person and Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

CENTERING PRAYER GROUP

A Centering Prayer group will be meeting every Tuesday in the Rectory at 2:30 pm and 6:15pm to pray together. All our welcome! Any questions, please contact Carol Powell at 718-261-6285.

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.

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

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.
- **Archbishop Molloy High School** located in Queens has an open position for Business Manager. In support of the Finance Director, the Business Manager performs general accounting functions such as processing payments, account payable/receivable and financial reporting. The ideal candidate should have a degree in accounting and a minimum of 5 years work experience in finance, accounting or auditing. Experience in education is preferred. Please submit cover letter to: president@molloys.org Cc: mdoyle@molloys.org

CONGRATULATIONS

St. Agnes Academy High School has notified us that our parishioner (previous OLM student) Kendall Joseph has earned Honor Roll status for the first trimester of the 2016-2017 school year.

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 OLMQ 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 OLMQ rectory at **718-268-6251** or email ymizelle@nyc.rr.com for additional information or questions

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

Have A
Blessed
New Year!