

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	January 21st
8:30 AM	Serafina Sauro
5:00 PM	Nora Calderon
Sunday	January 22nd
8:30 AM	Vicente Ortiz (Living Intention)
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Robert M. Sitler, Jr.
5:00 PM	Margaret Vanderbeck
Monday	January 23rd
8:30 AM	Rocco Morro
12:00 PM	Mary Castagnola
Tuesday	January 24th
8:30 AM	Zaida Alvarez
12:00 PM	Bolivar & Robert Almeida
Wednesday	January 25th
8:30 AM	Victor LaMarque
12:00 PM	Margaret Vanderbeck
Thursday	January 26th
8:30 AM	Michael Minischetti
12:00 PM	Fernando Almeida
Friday	January 27th
8:30 AM	Leonard Quigley & William Kirby
12:00 PM	Carolyn Ryan
Saturday	January 28th
8:30 AM	Dora Luque
5:00 PM	Louis A. Sauro
Sunday	January 29th
8:30 AM	Veronica McArdle Dolan
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Maria Lara Carlisi
5:00 PM	Of Thanksgiving by Mary R. Quinn

**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, Celina Oleksie, 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

Eugenia Barbagallo
Josephine Bebirian
Rosemary Carucci

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – January 22nd**

Third Sunday In Ordinary Time

-Confirmation Affirmation Mass-Church at 12:00pm

MONDAY – January 23rd

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

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

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

TUESDAY - January 24th

Saint Francis de Sales

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

-Cub Scouts-School at 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY – January 25th

The Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle

-Scholastic Book Fair-Parish Hall from 4:30pm to 7:30pm

-NO GOLDEN AGE TODAY

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

-Divine Mercy-Church at 7:00pm

THURSDAY – January 26th

Saints Timothy and Titus

-Scholastic Book Fair-Parish Hall from 7:30am to 8:30pm

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

-OLMCA Talent Show-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

FRIDAY – January 27th

Weekday

-Scholastic Book Fair-Parish Hall from 7:30am to 4:00pm

SATURDAY – January 28th

Saint Thomas Aquinas

**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:

Did our first Sunday reading from the prophet Isaiah sound familiar? It was used a few weeks ago during the Christmas season. In its earlier appearance it heralded the birth of Christ and now it hails the beginning of His public ministry. Many centuries before Christ, during another crisis in the history of the Israelite Kingdom Isaiah the prophet composed these verses. When the Israelite tribes first entered into what is now the Holy land, the northern area was parceled out to the two tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali. In time these areas would be known as Galilee. Many centuries before Jesus that area was invaded and annexed by the Assyrian Empire. Thus Isaiah speaks of them as "degraded" but he foresees a day when those lands, "the seaward road, the land west of the Jordan (River) , the District of the Gentiles" will be glorified. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone...". The early Church saw that light as the birth and eventual ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

After the end of the Assyrian empire, some Jews who had been exiled found their way back to the northern section of the country. They established new communities. But living nearby were Gentiles (a Latin based word meaning the nations, i.e. the nations other than Israel). It was in that area that God Himself would burst into our history. Though born in the town of Bethlehem where King David had been born, Jesus was raised, lived and worked in the Galilean town of Nazareth. As a carpenter, He and Joseph more than likely sought employment in Sepphoris, the nearby town that one of the sons of Herod the Great was rebuilding as his new capital. There they would have mingled with Greek-speakers as well as those speaking their native Aramaic (a language that was spoken commonly in the near east and is related to ancient Hebrew). In order to deal with the Romans, they may have also had a smattering of Latin.

Though rough in character, Jesus came from a fairly sophisticated part of the country. His fame as a charismatic preacher and healer had undoubtedly preceded Him. It is unlikely otherwise that tough, hardy fishermen such as James and John or Peter and Andrew , would have followed anyone simply at the command "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Having heard of Jesus they would have been prepared to follow Him. In doing so they left everything behind including their livelihood. The lives of these new laborers for the kingdom are turned upside down! They will never be the same.

The coming of the Kingdom of God is not a neutral event. It demands repentance and a conversion of heart. Like the apostles we must be transformed. But like them also, that transformation is usually not overnight. If you feel blue about not being what you think you should be as a Christian, then consider those early followers: Judas actively betrayed Jesus; Peter would deny Him, and the others ran away in the time of crisis. And, that was after three years of walking with Him; experiencing His cures on behalf of the suffering; both hearing His words of consolation to the downtrodden and marginalized, and His proclamation of a newer way to be human! The important thing is that when the mystery of the Resurrection hit them, all but Judas were radically transformed. And that small group in turn managed to transform the world.

Paul in the second reading this Sunday (1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17) scolds his people for being divisive. He tells them that it makes little difference who was the agent of their conversion. What counts is that they have accepted Christ. And, that's what is important for us. Many of our modern divisions are nothing compared to the majesty and magnificence of a God, Who loves us so much that in Jesus of Nazareth in Galilee He touch us so that we can live with Him.

The liturgical proclamations at Mass are not simply meant to be a lovely retelling of past events. They are meant to grasp us and immerse us in the reality of Jesus. They are meant to ever more transform and radically alter us. Like the apostles of old, we too must leave the confining nets of our lives to follow Him!

In Christ,
Monsignor John A. McGuirl

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.

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.

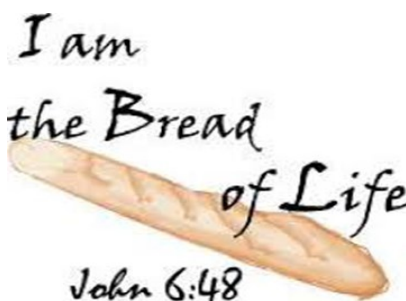
OLM MUSICAL NOTES

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

**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.

ATTENTION

As you know, we no longer accept donations of clothing here in the Parish unless we have a truck scheduled during a specific time to accept the clothing directly. Lack of space as well as legal restrictions do not permit our storage of clothing in any of our buildings. In light of these facts, **please do not drop clothing at the Rectory or outside the door when the Rectory is closed**. We will notify everyone , in advance, when we are scheduling a truck to be here for donations. Thank you for your cooperation.

DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

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.

OLMCA will host an **Open House** on February 7th from 9:30am to 10:30am for all grades

BOOK FAIR

Please join us for our **Scholastic Book Fair** in the **Parish Hall** this week. On **Wednesday, January 25th**, we will be open from **4:30pm to 7:30pm**. We also have a special event that night: Children in Grade 2 and below are invited to our **Bedtime Stories Night** from **6:00-7:30pm**. Come in your pajamas, share milk and cookies, read books with family and friends, and listen to great stories! On **Thursday, January 26th**, we will be open all day from **7:30am to 8:30pm**. Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy will be having a **Talent Show** that evening at **7:00pm**. Our Book Fair will be open on **Friday, January 27th** from **7:30am to 4:00pm**. On our final day, **Sunday, January 29th**, our Book Fair will be open from **9:00am to 2:00pm**, and we will be having a special **Catholic Schools Week Family Mass at 10:00am**. We invite all parishioners to join us in the Parish Hall for hospitality (and a little book shopping!) after the Mass. Please spread the word. Family and friends are always welcome, and your support is greatly appreciated!

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.
- Catholic Charities Office of **Disabilities Advocacy and Deaf Ministry** invites all **deaf parishioners** to a special **Mass in American Sign Language. The Mass will take place on 1/29/2017 at St. Mary Mother of Jesus Church** (2326 84th St., Brooklyn), **at 3:00pm** with a coffee hour and social to follow. Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend! For more info, contact Fr. Raphael Munday at 718-722-6232 or e-mail RAPHAELMUNDAY@CCBQ.ORG
- **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