

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	January 7th
8:30 AM	Mary Russomanno
5:00 PM	John Daly
Sunday	January 8th
8:30 AM	Robert Casaccio
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Gerry Murphy
5:00 PM	George Shookster
Monday	January 9th
8:30 AM	Henry Foertsch
12:00 PM	Carmella Sileo
Tuesday	January 10th
8:30 AM	Carol Anne Donahue
12:00 PM	David Jones (1st Anniversary)
Wednesday	January 11th
8:30 AM	Gerry Murphy
12:00 PM	Howard Shavel
Thursday	January 12th
8:30 AM	Joan Sauro
12:00 PM	Nabil Kassiss
Friday	January 13th
8:30 AM	Joseph DiCapua and BiFalco & DiCapua Families
12:00 PM	Maria Castagnola
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

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, 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

Ruth Sheridan

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – January 8th**

The Epiphany If The Lord

-Baptism Reunion Mass-12:00 Noon & Reception to follow

MONDAY – January 9th

The Baptism Of The Lord

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

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

TUESDAY - January 10th

Weekday

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

-Cub Scouts-School Gym at 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY – January 11th

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-Rectory Meeting Room at 7:00pm

THURSDAY – January 12th

Weekday

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

-Boy Scouts-School Gym at 7:00pm

FRIDAY – January 13th

Weekday

-1st String Players Present: "Review Of Broadway Show Tunes"-
Parish Hall at 8:00pm

SATURDAY – January 14th

Weekday

-1st String Players Present: "Review Of Broadway Show Tunes"-
Parish Hall at 8:00pm

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

**TABERNACLE LIGHT**

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

Cecilia Koluch
by
J.J. DiBartolo

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.

Dear Parishioners;

The traditional day of the Epiphany is January 6th but in the Western Church, for the convenience of the faithful, it is very often celebrated on the nearest Sunday. In the Eastern Churches both Catholic and Eastern Orthodox, Epiphany almost outranks Christmas in importance. Even in the West it is often called "little Christmas".

The Gospel for the feast of the Epiphany is from Saint Matthew's account of the Nativity. Of the four evangelists only Matthew and Luke give us an account of Our Lord's conception and birth. They agree in the basics, which were probably well-known: the virginal birth, the names of Mary and Joseph and the Child, Jesus; the birth in Bethlehem and Jesus' residence in Nazareth. Beyond some of these basics, they arranged their material in such a way so as to provide a preface to their entire Gospel.

Each had various concerns. Luke emphasized Jesus' regard for the downtrodden and forgotten. He was much concerned about the role of women and the necessity of constant prayer. Consequently in his Gospel we encounter the shepherds (who in their own time were considered only a slight cut above tramps). In Luke's Gospel, Mary, Elizabeth and Ana held central positions and several well-known prayers, such as the "Ave Maria" (Hail Mary) originated in his Gospel.

Matthew on the other hand was probably writing for a community that was predominately of Jewish background but which was open to Gentiles (non Jewish) converts. He emphasized Jesus' fulfillment of many Old Testament prophecies. His work is replete with quotations usually prefaced with words such as: "Thus was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet ...". Since he was equally concerned that Jesus be accepted as the savior of all people, his narrative includes the Wise Men, the Magi, who are non-Jewish and yet travel many miles to visit the new-born "king of the Jews". The term, "magi" is Persian and it described wise scholars who studied the movements of the heavenly bodies. It was thought then, and for many centuries afterward, that the births of major figures was heralded by heavenly phenomena. The word "magi" became the basis for the modern English word "magic" but these men were not magicians. They were wise men, scholars, who were highly esteemed in their society. They were not kings though they are often so described. The royal appellation probably flows from the type of gifts they carried. The Gospel does not give us a number but we assume that there were three magi because three gifts are mentioned. The Magi came from the east and they represent all who seek and yearn for the light of Christ.

The gifts of the Magi - gold, frankincense and myrrh - also point to later features in Jesus' life. Gold is the metal associated with royalty: Jesus is a king. Myrrh was a preservative often used to prepare the deceased for burial: Jesus like all humans would die. Frankincense (incense) was and is utilized for divine worship: Jesus is divine. Matthew probably quite deliberately echoes the Old Testament prophet Isaiah: "Rise up Jerusalem! Your light has come ... upon you the Lord shines...caravans of camels shall fill you...dromedaries from Midian and Ephah (Gentile lands) and from Sheba (another Gentile land) shall come bearing gold and frankincense and proclaiming the praises of the Lord."

Many of the earliest followers of Christ were from His own background. They were Jewish and some of them may have had to struggle with the notion that the Messianic age, though beginning with their people, was open to non-Jews. The story of the Wise Men was Matthew's attempt to alleviate their consternation. The Messiah was the long expected one of the Jews. He was born in David's city of Bethlehem but He would bring God's saving grace to all people.

St. Paul in the second reading, writing to his converts in the Greek-speaking city of Ephesus, openly proclaims: "...as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit, that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel" Paul is passionate that God's plan reaches completion in the form of one united Body of Christ on earth, one redeemed community composed of both Jews and Gentiles. God's gracious love is available to all people and the Magi are the surrogates for all who diligently seek the light of Christ which gives meaning, purpose and texture to our journey toward the all-encompassing brilliance of the Beatific Vision!

In Christ,
Monsignor John A. McGuirl

50-50 RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the December Winners of the 50-50 Raffle:

1 st Prize: Mr. & Mrs. John D'Agostino	\$261.00
2 nd Prize: Caroline Pugliese	\$130.50
3 rd Prize: Mary Shroff	\$130.50
4 th Prize: Margaret McGovern	\$65.25
5 th Prize: Mr. & Mrs. Henry Dowling	\$65.25

DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

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

**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!

**FEED THE
HUNGRY****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.

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.

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.

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

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

**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.mylfreesites.net>

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@molloyhs.org Cc: mdoyle@molloyhs.org
- **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.

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

**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**

