

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	December 2nd
8:30 AM	Katie LeLinwalla
5:00 PM	Joan Sauro
Sunday	December 3rd
8:30 AM	Enzo DiGraci
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Eugene Caracciolo (100th Birthday Remembrance)
5:00 PM	Connie Hickey & Stephen Hickey
Monday	December 4th
8:30 AM	Mary Borries
12:00 PM	James Judge
Tuesday	December 5th
8:30 AM	Louis & Doris Vecchione (Living Intention)
12:00 PM	Julia Giamonco
Wednesday	December 6th
8:30 AM	Roger Carpenter
12:00 PM	Rose Bruno
Thursday	December 7th
8:30 AM	Margaret Hock
12:00 PM	Henri-Robert Lamarque
7:30 PM	
Friday	December 8th
8:30 AM	
10:00 AM	
12:00 PM	Members of Karkheck & Treacy Families
Saturday	December 9th
8:30 AM	Jules Ulysse
5:00 PM	Serafina Sauro & Mary Russomanno
Sunday	December 10th
8:30 AM	Rajesh Israni Jr.
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Marie & Joe Merolla
5:00 PM	Antonia Turriciano

PRAY FOR THE SICK

James Leung, Alice Coleman, Robert & Mary Tardona, Antoinette Wagner, Richard Kelly, Rose Jonsson, Mary Ann Matecki, Vincent Lucanie, Patrick Norton, Diane Kitson, Peggy Racanelli, Maureen Medina, Jeanne Woods, Mary Honan, Ron Areas, Bonnie Nison, Gerry Holmes, Peter Ruelius, Pat Reilly, Dottie Phillips, Marilyn Jagiello, Vera

Garofalo, Carolyn Kalnberg, Frank Kalnberg, Faith Fedechko, Margaret Hefferon, Josie Bellina, Ann Restaino, Maureen Kelly, Manuel Juan Perez, Dianne Nudelman, Manuel Calidonio Sr., Inez Arastia, Sofia Robello, Ethel Timmerman, Lorraine Kohlmann, Samuel Mantilla, Marianne Albert, Caroline Pugliese, Ervin Dudas, Rev. Joseph Gurdak, OFM, Cap., Patricia Matecki, Patricia Riddick, Salvatore Tuminello, 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, Pvt. Tim Richardson, U.S. Army, Sgt. 1st Class James Walsh, U.S. Army, 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

Fr. Eugene F. McGovern
Guillermo Ruiz Lopez
Deacon John P. Orlandello

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – December 3rd**

First Sunday of Advent

-Pancake Breakfast-Parish Hall after all Masses

MONDAY – December 4th

Advent Weekday

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

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

TUESDAY - December 5th

Advent Weekday

-Centering Prayer-Rectory at 2:30pm

-RCIA & ARISE-Rectory Meeting Room at 7:30pm

-Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY – December 6th

Advent Weekday

-Exercise Class-Parish Hall at 9:00am

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

-CCD K thru 5th Gr.-Church at 3:00pm

-Divine Mercy-Rectory at 6:30pm

THURSDAY – December 7th

Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

-ARISE-Rectory Meeting Room at 2:15pm

-CCD 6th & 7th Gr.-NO CLASS

-Boy Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:30pm

FRIDAY – December 8th

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

SATURDAY – December 9th

Advent Weekday

-Annual Christmas Tree Lighting-Juno street Lawn at 6:00pm

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

**BAPTISMS**

We welcome into our faith community all those who were baptized in the month of November, 2017:

Isabella Lisa Stankes

Lena Marie Napolitano

Zira May Napolitano

Eliza Johnson Napolitano

Lucas Andres Brooks

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

Dear Parishioners;

This weekend we enter into the season of Advent and also into the new Liturgical Year. The Church traces its year from the First Sunday of Advent. The logic of this is that the liturgical year follows the basic narrative of Jesus' life. Advent is the preparation period for His birth.

Today's Gospel citation is taken from the end of Saint Mark's Gospel. In it Jesus is urging His disciples to be watchful and attentive. The reading bears a trace of the first reading from the Prophet Isaiah. Isaiah is the Old Testament prophet most used liturgically by both Christians and the Jewish people. In today's citation, the people have returned after the Babylonian exile (about five hundred years before the Birth of Jesus) and have found their land and temple in ruins. Isaiah laments this but He counts on God to again be a Father to His people. Meanwhile the people are to live in hopeful longing because they are clay in the hands of the potter, created and formed by God's hands.

Among some Christians of a fundamentalist bent, there is almost a cottage industry in speculating about the "end". Jesus warns against this but He adjures us be attentive, to "Watch". St. Mark uses a brief parable, lengthier versions of which appear also in Luke and Matthew. A man goes on journey and leaves his servants in charge, each with his own work. The gatekeeper is to stay vigilant. The word "watch", in the original Greek of the New Testament, is the action of a watchman or sentry, who must remain always vigilant, awaiting those who are expected to arrive as well as being alert for the sudden and unexpected. When the owner of the house returns he expects to find his servants at their tasks no matter what time he comes. He does not expect to find them sleeping on the job.

The parable refers to the unexpectedness of God's plans. Who would have imagined that in Jesus, God would break into our history in a stable among common farm workers! And yet He did. Our God is a God of surprises. What we might plan is not what He might plan! Therefore the disciples (and all Christians) must remain wakeful and attentive. During Advent, we are reminded of the waiting of our ancestors, watching for the Messiah, which was fulfilled in Jesus' coming. We await His return in glory but we are also attentive to the Presence of the Lord in the Eucharist and in His word (as we hear it at Mass or read it in our Bibles.) We live in attentive watchfulness, knowing, that probably long before the termination of all things, we will meet the Lord individually at the end of our earthly sojourn. Are we constantly watchful and prepared with the works of mercy because we know not how or when He will return?

A blessed Advent,
Monsignor McGuirl

DINNER IS SERVED!!

Our Lady of Mercy in cooperation with California Pizza Kitchen is participating in a fund raiser to benefit Our Lady of Mercy Parish. On **December 13th** come to the restaurant located in Atlas Park any time from 11:00 AM to 10:00PM and have lunch or dinner. Our Lady of Mercy receives 20% of every meal served. Make sure to follow the restaurant's donation instructions. Please go to <https://www.groupraise.com/events/44421> and make your reservations for that day or bring the flyer that was provided in last week's bulletin and present it to your server to make sure they know you are from Mercy.

We need at least 30 people to sign in. We have 15. We're on our way. You can also do some shopping to help Santa fill his sleigh. See you there!!

'TIS THE SEASON

Our **Giving Tree** and ornaments are in place in the Church vestibule. This year, as in the past, we will be collecting gifts for Catholic Charities, and **our own homebound parishioners**. Please hang an ornament on the tree and drop off your gift, noted on your ornament, in the box provided in the vestibule or at the Rectory no later than December 15th. Your thoughtfulness always makes Christmas bright for many less fortunate than ourselves, and your generosity is greatly appreciated.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Please join us for our Annual Tree Lighting ceremony on Saturday, December 9th after the 5 P.M. Mass. Join in the Blessing and sing a few carols around the tree. Afterwards, come down to the Parish Hall for refreshments, purchasing of holiday greenery, and comradery.

As usual, you will be able to take a chance on winning some **GREAT PRIZES**: In our special \$25 can win you \$1000 in cash, or with other chances you can win 4 tickets to "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" on January 6th at 2:00pm, or \$50 of lottery scratch offs

Santa himself will be joining in the festivities. Bring those wish lists!

We could use some help in decorating the wreaths that will be sold, as well as our Parish Hall, for the festivities. Decorating will be on Friday, Dec.8th from 7:30pm to 9:00pm in the Parish Hall.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH DÉCOR

Since it is so nice to see fresh flowers at weekend Masses as part of our memorial donation, we would like to add to our **Christmas** décor by offering the **opportunity for 15 Memorials in honor of a loved one**. Each memorial will cover the expense of one fresh Christmas wreath and several poinsettias used to decorate the church. **These will remain in place for the three weeks of the Christmas season**. The cost remains \$150.00. Memorials will be published. If you would like to memorialize a loved one in this way please contact the Rectory Office at 718-268-6143 by December 15th. Once the Christmas Season ends, we will return to our weekly floral offerings.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Each year, we have some local families who come to us requesting our help in providing Christmas gifts for their children. We try to support these families by providing new gifts of toys and clothing for the parents to place under the tree for their children. If you would like to "adopt" and assist one of these needy families

through our "**Be An Angel**" program, please contact **Deacon Dean Dobbins** at 718-261-6285 for further details

NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL

Celebrate New Year's Eve at Our Lady of Mercy. Begin the evening with the Latin-English Mass at 7:00pm. After that, the festivities will begin in the Parish Hall, at 8:00pm with dinner, and dancing (wine and champagne are included but you may BYOB if you choose).



Admission is \$70.00 and tickets are available at the rectory.

DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

December 06, 2017	Divine Mercy Devotion	6:30pm
December 13, 2017	Divine Mercy Cenacle	6:30pm
December 20, 2017	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament	7:00pm
	Divine Mercy Chaplet-7:30pm & Benediction -	8:00pm
December 27, 2017	Divine Mercy Cenacle	6:30pm

SPECIAL ADVENT SCRIPTURE/PRAYER SERIES

There will be a special Advent series taking place for 3 Tuesdays before Christmas – Dec. 5, Dec. 12, and Dec. 19. It will involve the sharing of Advent scriptures followed by prayer. We will meet in the Rectory basement at 7:30pm. We hope this will help prepare you spiritually for Christmas! All are welcome.

CENTERING PRAYER

Looking for quiet, inner peace, a deeper union with God? Centering Prayer has resumed this Fall, on Tuesdays, from 2:30-3:45pm in the Rectory Basement. Come and join us. All are welcome! Any questions, please call Carol Powell at 718-261-6285.

CHOIR NEWS

Our choir season has begun and we look forward to welcoming new members, as well as our returning ones. You do not need to be able to read music and there are no formal auditions. Our choir welcomes everyone, (Adult and Youth from 7th Gr. Up). We meet in the Parish Hall on Sundays at 9:30am to warm up for the 10:00am Mass and rehearse after the Mass from 11:00am to 12:00 Noon. At this point, for your convenience, there are no evening rehearsals during the week. Soon we will be preparing Christmas music. So, if you are interested in this valuable ministry, please join our choir by contacting Jane Lawson (Director of Music) at the rectory or after Mass on the weekends in Church.

SIMBANG GABI

The Society of St. Lawrence Ruiz (SSLR) will celebrate Simbang Gabi on Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 5:00pm.

The history of "Simbang Gabi" is a long treasured Philippine tradition originally a series of "dawn Masses" for nine consecutive days before Christmas Day. Its liturgical significance emanates from the Season of Advent, being the time of spiritual preparation and purification to worthily welcome and receive the Child Jesus in our midst. The Mass at dawn or Evening Mass, is a nine day novena to the Blessed Mother. It starts every December 16th and is one of the longest and most important religious celebrations in the Philippines and has lasted over 600 years.

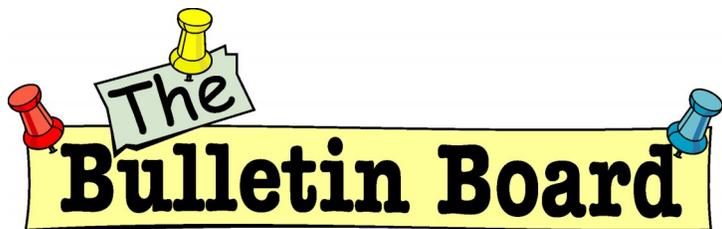
Here in the United States, Filipino immigrants brought with them this distinct tradition that is slowly taking root and thus the observance of this time of year is to honor this spiritual and cultural tradition significantly in California, New York, Chicago, New Jersey and even in the Hampton Roads Virginia. Slowly the tradition is gaining a strong and unequivocal support.

Fellowship will follow in the parish hall. All are welcome.

50-50 RAFFLE WINNERS

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

1 st Prize: Linda Bullaro	\$258.00
2 nd Prize: Katherine McGrath	\$129.00
3 rd Prize: Karlton Nee	\$129.00
4 th Prize: Douglas Grady	\$64.00
5 th Prize: Ms. Kaitlin Gerdtz	\$64.00



- **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.
- **Rachel's Helpers**, a post-abortion ministry for women, is sponsoring a program entitled **Forgiven and Set Free** for women who have had an abortion and are seeking spiritual healing. There will be sessions every Monday evenings thru 12/11/17 and from 2/12/18 thru 4/23/18, from 7:30 to 9:30pm. Please call 347-702-2352 for more info. There is no fee and all calls are confidential.

CYO GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Girls who attend school at Our Lady of Mercy, Saint Margaret (Middle Village), and Resurrection Ascension (Rego Park) or live within the boundaries of those parishes are invited to participate in CYO Girls Volleyball. Teams will be formed with players in the 3rd thru 8th grades. Practice & games will be held at St Margaret. More info at stmsports.org.

THE DEANERY CORNER

- **The Bereavement Support Group at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs** offers understanding, compassion, and healing for the hurt of losing a loved one. Meetings are the **first and third Mondays** of each month, from 7-9 p.m., in the rectory, and facilitated by Commissioned Lay Pastoral Leader, Yorke Mizelle. Call the OLMQ rectory at 718-268-6251 if interested in attending or more info, email ymizelle@nyc.rr.com.
- **Our Lady of Hope (Middle Village)** is beginning an outreach service called Witnesses of Mercy. It's purpose is to provide visitation and companionship to seniors living alone and homebound of all ages and faiths. If you are interested in a visit or in volunteering for this ministry, please contact Mario @347-642-3117.
- **The Sacred Music Society of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs** will present their **Annual Christmas Concert on December 10th** at 4:00pm in the Church. Tickets (\$30;\$10-children 12 & under) are available in the Rectory.(718-268-6251)

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**

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS

Please **do not bring clothing** to, or **leave it on the steps of**, the Rectory. We no longer have the space to store it or the ability to distribute it. Thank you for your understanding.

As you are leaving Mass, please remember to take all of your personal belongings, to return all hymnals, bulletins and newspapers to their proper place, and to dispose of all refuse in the receptacles provided at the Church doors. Please take pride in our Church, and leave the pews clean. Thank You!

THE FIRST SUNDAY
IN ADVENT:

HOPE

