

MASS INTENTIONS

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
Monday	December 11th
8:30 AM	Joseph DiCapua & BiFalco & DiCapua Families
12:00 PM	Frank Esposito
Tuesday	December 12th
8:30 AM	Robert Rameriz (1st Anniversary)
12:00 PM	Joan Sauro
Wednesday	December 13th
8:30 AM	Bernadette Boyle
12:00 PM	Robert Malm
Thursday	December 14th
8:30 AM	Bolivar & Robert Almeida
12:00 PM	Rocco Ciaravolo
Friday	December 15th
8:30 AM	Michael OKeefe
12:00 PM	Frank Vukel
Saturday	December 16th
8:30 AM	Leonard Quigley & William Kirby
5:00 PM	John & Anne Daly
Sunday	December 17th
8:30 AM	Herman, Joanne & Katherine Holzknecht
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	George Van Nostrand
5:00 PM	Candie Holochuck

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, Daniella Salcau, 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

Rev. Joaquin Suran

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – December 10th***Second Sunday of Advent***MONDAY – December 11th***Advent Weekday*

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

TUESDAY - December 12th*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

-Centering Prayer-Rectory at 2:30pm

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

-Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY – December 13th*Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr*-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 14th*Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church*

-ARISE/RCIA-Rectory Meeting Room at 2:30pm

-CCD 6th & 7th Gr.-School at 4:00pm

-OLMCA Christmas Concert-Parish Hall at 6:30pm

-Baptism Class-Rectory at 7:30pm

-Boy Scouts-School at 7:30pm

FRIDAY – December 15th*Advent Weekday***SATURDAY – December 16th***Advent Weekday*

-OLMCA Breakfast with Santa-Parish Hall at 9:00am

-Baptism-Church at 1:00pm

If you are not yet registered in the Parish, please stop into the Rectory for a Census Form 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

DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

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

Dear Parishioners;

Thankfully the Advent Sunday readings are familiar to most of us. The first reading taken again from the Prophet Isaiah is introduced by words that eventually would find a prominent place in Handel's oratorio, *The Messiah*. "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem.." The Prophet looks forward to a time when the sins of the people would be expiated and their punishment would be ended.

In New York City we are familiar with road work. Signs warning of "roadwork ahead" are regular parts of our urban landscape. Road crews have an uphill battle to fill in potholes and maintain our streets and highways so that they can be used safely and comfortably. In the ancient world, the visitation of a king or an important personage meant that the locals made sure that the roads, no matter how primitive, were repaired. By repairing and straightening the roads they were sending the visiting dignitary a message that he or she was welcome and that the people desired to give them a comfortable and safe welcome. Isaiah uses this poetic language to describe a future time when God would visit His people. Prepare ye the way of the Lord - straighten the roads - fill in the valleys, lower the mountains - smooth the rugged land and then proclaim: "Here is your God!"

Many centuries later St. Mark quotes Isaiah directly but in His Gospel he introduces us to the one who would prepare the ways of the Lord: John the Baptizer (Baptist). Out of all Biblical characters, John is unique. He focused on one thing only: the arrival of the One, "mightier than I (who) is coming after me." The One coming will baptize with the power of God - the Holy Spirit. John cared not a thing about style - he wore a camel hair tunic and leather belt! He was not concerned about his diet; bugs and wild honey sustained him physically! What he cared about is of ultimate importance: "prepare ye the way of the Lord - make straight His paths". When and how? Isaiah did not know the "when" yet in magnificent poetry he yearned for the vindication of God.

Both St. Mark and St Peter, who authored our second reading, knew that the Lord had come as a Child born in Bethlehem of Judea. But both of them are also looking forward to the Second Coming. Peter especially warns his people to be ready but not to try to predict the day. "Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day". We are given more time to prepare ourselves because God does not wish anyone to perish!

So, in this second week of Advent, we commemorate the coming of the long expected One on that first Christmas. We reflect on and prepare for His coming in the future. That future coming is two-pronged: the encounter with the Lord at the passing of our days here and then the ultimate and final vindication at the end of all things. Practically speaking, it is the first of the two that is of more immediate concern. But quoting St Peter again; "Therefore beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before Him, at peace."

In Christ,
Monsignor John A. McGuirl

Attention - Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist!!!

Each pastor has the serious obligation of insuring that the faithful, entrusted to his care, have the availability of the Sacraments, particularly the Eucharist. Many of our homebound parishioners are served regularly by our volunteer Extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist. These men and women are the vehicles through whom Jesus reaches His people. Therefore each pastor has the obligation to know who is being served. Either he or his associate must try to provide enough ministers for the people requiring the Blessed Sacrament.

Unfortunately exactly which parishioners are being visited is not fully known. Some of our homebound may occasionally wish to receive the Sacraments of Penance or the Anointing of the Sick. Our Bishop also requires information about the services given to our infirm, aged or homebound parishioners. Recently compliance with the Bishop's requests has relied to a great degree on guesswork.

In order to have a handle on those being served, it was determined at our recent meeting that a book would be kept in the sacristy. **Any Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, who visits the sick or homebound, is asked to list alphabetically the name of the person(s) that they have visited.** The book is arranged alphabetically. **Periodically each minister should note the frequency of their visits (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly etc...) on the same appropriate page.** Implementation of this policy will begin this weekend and it is my hope and that of Father Greg, that our homebound, yet often most faithful parishioners, are being served reasonably and adequately.

Thank you for your service!
Monsignor John A. 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!

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

MAKE CHRISTMAS BRIGHT FOR OUR HOME BOUND

We would like to present Christmas gifts to our home bound parishioners. If you know someone who is homebound and not able to get out, please contact the Rectory with their name and address so that one of our elves can drop by with a gift for Christmas. Often our homebound are forgotten during the hustle and bustle of the season. Let's us bring a little Christmas joy to them.

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.

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.

OLM CONSOLATION MINISTRY NEEDS HELP

At present, there are not many active members in our consolation Ministry. The "precious few" that we have, work tirelessly to make sure that no parishioner finds it necessary to deal with the loss of a loved one alone. By helping families through the difficult process of handling final arrangements for services, the Consolation Minister actually makes an unpleasant experience a bit easier to bear. Please consider joining those who are already performing this valuable ministry. Call or stop by the Rectory if you are interested in helping, or if you would like to know more about this ministry.

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.



- **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.

CONGRATULATIONS

The following schools have notified us of our parishioners (previous OLM students) who have merited recognition for commendable academic performance:

- St. Francis Preparatory School:
Isabella Cognata & Mark Alex Sulewski
- Msgr. McClancy Memorial High School:
Megan Heerey

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 OLQM 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 SECOND SUNDAY
IN ADVENT:

PEACE

