

MASS INTENTIONS

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
Monday	December 18th
8:30 AM	Nellie Rooney (51st Anniversary)
12:00 PM	Beth Fogarty (Living Intention)
Tuesday	December 19th
8:30 AM	James Sommero
12:00 PM	Fred Fernandes
Wednesday	December 20th
8:30 AM	Michael Minischetti
12:00 PM	Deceased Members of the Casaccio, Chocko, & Link Families
Thursday	December 21st
8:30 AM	Francis Morison
12:00 PM	Dolores Uy Chun
Friday	December 22nd
8:30 AM	Louis & Pauline Pfohl
12:00 PM	Ruth Huff Fernandes
Saturday	December 23rd
8:30 AM	Maria Morra Fernandes
5:00 PM	William Walters
Sunday	December 24th
8:30 AM	Virginia Moriarty
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Mary & Steve Churley
4:00 PM	Christmas
10:00 PM	Vigil

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

Sofia Sugrue

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – December 17th**

Third Sunday of Advent

-Children's Pageant, *A Christmas Street*-Church at 11:00am
-Cantores Varmienses Choir from Poland-Church at 5:00pm

MONDAY – December 18th

Late Advent Weekday

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

TUESDAY - December 19th

Late Advent Weekday

-Centering Prayer-Rectory at 2:30pm
-Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm
-RCIA & ARISE-Rectory Meeting Room at 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY – December 20th

Late 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-Church at 7:00pm

THURSDAY – December 21st

Late Advent Weekday

-ARISE/RCIA-Rectory Meeting Room at 2:30pm
-CCD 6th & 7th Gr.-**NO CLASS**
-Boy Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:30pm

FRIDAY – December 22nd

Late Advent Weekday

SATURDAY – December 23rd

Late Advent Weekday

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

**TABERNACLE LIGHT**

Many thanks for this week's donation of the Tabernacle Light given

in **loving memory of:**
Msgr. Gerald Langelier
(4th Anniversary)

by
The Garrity Family

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 third Sunday of Advent traditionally is called "Gaudete" Sunday from the Latin word "Rejoice". On this Sunday, the clergy are permitted to wear rose colored vestments as a change from the more somber Advent violet or purple. There are two Sundays a year when this happens: the other is "Laetare" Sunday in Lent. This Sunday marks that fact that we are half way through Advent and that the celebration of Christ's birth is close at hand. As a result, we rejoice. Today's readings reflect that joy.

Joy is not the same as pleasure. The latter is a momentary feeling of satisfaction that comes from something external; such as great meal, a romantic encounter or an unexpected gift. Joy is an inner feeling of satisfaction. Joy is almost always recognized. It is a sense of well-being that flows from the knowledge that we are important and loved by the very Master of the universe. Not only that, but that He holds us in the palm of His hand and has an eternal destiny planned for each of us. Because of that, even the terminally ill or those facing martyrdom can manifest joy. They recognize that in time all will be made good.

In our first reading today, Isaiah, the prophet, acknowledges that God had poured His spirit into him "(to) bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted... to announce a year of favor from the Lord." Isaiah was not a fool; he lived eight hundred years before Jesus, at a tumultuous era in Israel's history, yet he yearned for a "day of vindication by our God."

The opening words of the second reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Thessalonians provides the title of this Sunday: "Gaudete" - "Rejoice, again I say rejoice". Paul too faced opposition and persecution and yet he could urge the Thessalonians to rejoice always.

Finally we meet John the Baptist (or Baptizer) in the third reading taken from the Gospel according to St. John the Evangelist. Though unusual in his diet and vesture, John the Baptist attracted many through the dynamism of his preaching. He too yearned for one who was to come "the thongs of His sandals I am not worthy to unloose". As we approach Christmas the readings reflect that mood of hopeful expectation. God is coming to His people and quite unexpectedly He will be "Emmanuel" - God with us. He will share our lives and bear our burdens so that we might have life with Him.

Advent commemorates that first coming in Bethlehem; it also reminds us of our personal encounter with God at the end of our lives here; and it points toward that unknown future when God will be all in all.

In Christ,
Monsignor John McGuirl

Christmas & New Year Schedules

For your convenience there is a separate flyer included in this week's bulletin. The flyer contains the full schedule for Christmas and the New Year. Please note it carefully. This year both holidays fall on a Monday, which can lead to a certain confusion particularly with the celebration of Christmas.

The Morning Masses on Sunday, December 24th are for the fourth Sunday of Advent! The celebration of Christmas begins with the 4:00 P.M. Mass on Sunday afternoon! "Midnight Mass" will be begin at 10:00 P.M. on December 24th so that people can arrive home at a reasonable hour. Before the "Midnight Mass" the choir will carol for about a half an hour.

If you would like to attend, The Forest Hills Gardens Corporation will have its annual Blessing of the Crèche in Station Square at 7:00 P.M. on December 24th. Our Lady of Mercy Parish is responsible for the blessing this year. After the blessing, usually Santa Claus makes an appearance.

Thank you,
Monsignor McGuirl

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 718-268-6143 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.

‘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 . Your thoughtfulness always makes Christmas bright for many less fortunate than ourselves, and your generosity is greatly appreciated.

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.

**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 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.

RCIA INVITATION

(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

If you, or someone you know, is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, or desires to become a Catholic, the RCIA is a program of welcome, prayer, and reflection that can help you take the next step. This program is also for baptized Catholics who are need of the sacraments First Communion or Confirmation. It is our privilege and joy to help you be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. Please contact David or 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.



- **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.
- **Camp Fatima for boys and Camp Bernadette for girls** are now accepting registrations for the 2018 summer season. The camps, located in the Lakes region of NH, offer 2 week overnight sessions for children ages 6-15. Round trip bus transportation is available out of Long Island. For more information, or to request a brochure, contact Brendan Stackhouse at 603-364-5851 or email brendan@bfcamp.com.

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.

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

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.

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!

