

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday December 25th
 8:30 AM Christmas
 10:00 AM Day
 12:00 PM

Tuesday December 26th
 8:30 AM August Taglioni
 12:00 PM Nicholas Tommaso (1st Anniversary)

Wednesday December 27th
 8:30 AM Ricardo Linsangan
 12:00 PM Michael, Caroline, Michael Sassi Jr.
 and Roland Pugliese

Thursday December 28th
 8:30 AM Giuseppina Bellina
 12:00 PM George & Steven Flaucher

Friday December 29th
 8:30 AM Stephen & Anna Butler
 12:00 PM Michael Barone

Saturday December 30th
 8:30 AM Mario Navas
 5:00 PM Anna Sorrentino

Sunday December 31st
 8:30 AM Cecelia Dorgan
 10:00 AM Parish Mass
 12:00 PM
 5:00 PM Alfred & Giovanna Infosino
 7:00PM Latin/English Mass



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

Deacon Jerome H. Krebs

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

SUNDAY – December 24th
Fourth Sunday of Advent

MONDAY – December 25th
The Nativity of the Lord
 -All Offices & Buildings Closed

TUESDAY - December 26th
Saint Stephen, The First Martyr
 -All Offices & Buildings Closed

WEDNESDAY – December 27th
Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist
 -Exercise Class-Parish Hall at 9:00am
 -Golden Age-Parish Hall at 12:30pm - **All Are Welcome**
 -CCD K thru 5th Gr.-**NO CLASS**
 -Divine Mercy-Rectory at 6:30pm

THURSDAY – December 28th
The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
 -ARISE/RCIA-Rectory Meeting Room at 2:30pm
 -CCD 6th & 7th Gr.-**NO CLASS**

FRIDAY – December 29th
Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

SATURDAY – December 30th
Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

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:

Robert Malm
 by
 The Malm Family



BREAD AND WINE

Many thanks for this week's donation of Bread & Wine given in loving memory of:

Tosi and Van Nostrand Families
 by
 Mary, Glenn, Michelle & Families

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 Advent is the shortest that it can be. It is so short that the fourth Sunday of Advent (December 24th) actually collides with the Christmas Vigil. This weekend, the 5:00 P.M. Mass on Saturday and the 8:30 A.M.; 10:00 A.M. and 12:00 P.M. Mass on Sunday, December 24th, are the Masses for the fourth Sunday of Advent. They are not Masses for Christmas.

The first Mass of Christmas will be the 4:00 P.M. Vigil Mass on Sunday afternoon, December 24th. Vigil Masses are Masses of anticipation for major feasts. At 10:00 P.M. on December 24th, we will celebrate "Midnight Mass" as we have for the last several years. The Vatican apparently also celebrates "Midnight Mass" early in the evening. The earlier celebration seems to have more appeal and the congregation is stronger and more vibrant.

On Monday, December 25th, Christmas Day, the Masses will be at 8:30 A.M.; 10:00 A.M. and 12:00 P.M. There will not be an evening Mass on Christmas Day.

For those who lives in Forest Hills Gardens and others who are interested, the Christmas Crèche in Station Square will be blessed at 7:00 P.M. on December 24th and Our Lady of Mercy Parish is responsible for the blessing this year. Santa Claus is also scheduled to visit.

For the greater part of Advent, John the Baptist has been the focus of attention, but today the Gospel reading for the fourth Sunday of Advent changes the focus to Mary. St. Luke presents us with the very moment when the Incarnation took place. Mary and Joseph are married according to the Jewish traditions of the time. Marriage took place in several steps. The first was the contractual relationship between the families, after which the bride and groom were considered married, though they had yet to live together. It is between these two stages that the angel Gabriel comes to Mary. While she is a faithful woman and gives her consent: "Be it done to me according to your word"; she was young. Did she have any inkling of the road ahead? On that score, Gabriel is singularly unhelpful. Gaining Mary's assent, he departs. And what lie ahead?

We can become very blasé about what we celebrate this weekend. After all, we do this every year and some of us have been celebrating it for many, many years. But let's think about it!

Who ever thought that the Messiah's coming would depend on the consent of an unknown but specific young woman in the remote small town of Nazareth in the Galilee area of northern in Israel? Who could predict that Mary's Child would live in relative obscurity for approximately thirty years while working as a manual laborer? Yes, he was of "the house of David" but David lived almost a thousand years before Jesus! By Jesus' time, hundreds of people could legitimately claim that among their remote ancestors was King David. This is true even in modern royal families. An example might be the present British royal family. Prince Charles will succeed his mother, Queen Elizabeth; Prince William will succeed his father, Charles, and in turn little Prince George will follow William. But what becomes of Prince Harry? What has become of the children of the Queen's sister, the late Princess Margaret? What will become of the children of Prince Charles' siblings, Anne, Andrew and Edward? In time their descendants will blend into the general population but they may always recall that there is royalty in their pedigree.

Jesus is Son of David yes, but more importantly God's son, God's communication of Himself! God, in the person of that Child born in the village of Bethlehem, fuses divinity and humanity. A small baby pierces the heart of even the most jaded and hardened people. God comes to us in this most nonthreatening way. He wins our hearts as would a gentle baby. That same God is anxious for our touch, just as a baby yearns for the touch of its mother and father. That Child of Bethlehem, when grown, will be the voice and actions of God in human terms. Terms available to us. We can hear Him, we can see Him, we can touch Him and in turn be seen and touched by Him. We are lured back into the family of God.

How can we take this in a blasé manner? Only Christianity makes the radical claim that God loves us so deeply, and so profoundly, He enters our existence as one of us so that we might be one with Him. This is the God of all creation, the master of the universe; yet, His unfathomable dream is union with the creature "made in His image and likeness". (Genesis 1:27)

"The Word (of God) became flesh and it dwelt amongst us" (John 1:14)...and to those who did accept Him, He gave power to become children of God". (John 1:12) This is great news, it is Gospel (God's story) and we can do nothing else but rejoice.

In that light, Father Greg, Deacons Ed. and Dean, our entire parish and Academy staffs, and the Marist Brothers, who live in our parish convent, wish all of you, our loyal parishioners, a blessed, happy and peace-filled Christmas and New Year.

In Christ,
Monsignor John A. McGuirl

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS



GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Richard Hunt, Susan Stewart and Our Families

by
Barbara Hunt & Terence Stewart

The Dubiel and Freeley Families

by
Mary Ellen & Jim Freeley

Henry Jagiello

by
Marilyn & Family

The Merolla and Roy Families

by
Lisa & Philip Roy

Mary & Raymond Richmond

by
The Allen Family

Richard & Regina Gunaratna and Mario Gunaratna

by
Indira Richards

Florence & John Romano and Veronica & James Mauro

by
Frank & Amelia Romano

James & Eleanor Gorman and Charles & Jennette Markey

by
Patrick & Carol Gorman

Francis Morison

With Love & Thanks by
Ann & Children

Finley and Delaney Families

by
Susan & Frank Finley

Redmond and Mooney Families

by
Jim & Mary Ann Redmond

In Memory of our Deceased Loved Ones

by
The Garrity Family

Jack Bernardone

by
Mary Bernardone & Family

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.

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.

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.

DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

December 27, 2017	Divine Mercy Cenacle	6:30pm
January 03, 2018	Divine Mercy Devotion	6:30pm
January 10, 2018	Divine Mercy Cenacle	6:30pm
January 17, 2018	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament	7:00pm
	Divine Mercy Chaplet	7:30pm
January 24, 2018	Divine Mercy Devotion	6:30pm
January 31, 2018	Divine Mercy Cenacle	6:30pm

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.

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.

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 week, 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**

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!

**Fourth
Sunday
of
Advent**

