

**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

**Monday January 1st**  
 8:30 AM No  
 12:00 PM Intentions

**Tuesday January 2nd**  
 8:30 AM Jeffrey Ramon Whitacre  
 12:00 PM Sarah Davey

**Wednesday January 3rd**  
 8:30 AM Nellie Rooney

**Thursday January 4th**  
 8:30 AM Deceased Members of the Szabados Family  
 12:00 PM John & Elizabeth Haggerty

**Friday January 5th**  
 8:30 AM Deceased Members of Butler/Mara Families  
 12:00 PM

**Saturday January 6th**  
 8:30 AM Deacon Edward Smolinski 90th Birthday  
 (Living Intention)  
 5:00 PM John Daly

**Sunday January 7th**  
 8:30 AM Herman, Joanne, & Katherine Holzknacht  
 10:00 AM Parish Mass  
 12:00 PM Wlodzimierz Radecki  
 5:00 PM John Saver & John Hickey Jr.

**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, Tom DiNucci, 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**

Edward Malone  
 Jose Felix Alvarado

**THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**

**SUNDAY – December 31st**  
*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

**MONDAY – January 1st**  
*The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord, Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*  
 -All Offices & Buildings Closed

**TUESDAY - January 2nd**  
*Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen*  
 -Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

**WEDNESDAY – January 3rd**  
*Christmas Weekday*  
 -No Exercise Class  
 -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 – January 4th**  
*Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton*  
 -CCD 6th & 7th Gr.-School at 4:00pm  
 -Boy Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:30pm

**FRIDAY – January 5th**  
*Saint John Neumann*  
 -Girl Scouts-Parish Hall at 6:00pm

**SATURDAY – January 6th**  
*Christmas Weekday*

**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.

*Have A  
 Blessed  
 New Year!*

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday is the feast of the Holy Family. Families are something of a mystery aren't they? You cannot choose your blood family. It's a given. Our parents choose to have children but they did not know in advance who that child might be like. We certainly do not choose our parents. That too is a given.

Last week I received a call from a first cousin once removed (The Irish have these relationships nuanced into an art form!) For the uninitiated, a first cousin once removed is the child of a first cousin. My cousin was informing me that her father had died in Colorado. He was married to my oldest first cousin. Both were raised in Forest Hills and are in their early nineties. It hit me rather suddenly that when my cousin herself dies, there is very little chance that I will ever see any of her children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren again.

Not so long ago, family members remained living close to one another. Families got together regularly and cousins all knew each other well. That has changed in very short time. I have only one cousin who remains in New York City! She is a single lady. My brother and his family and all of my cousins live outside the City in which they were raised. Many of them live a long distance away. It's the new American culture. The United States Census Bureau estimates that seven million Americans live in a place other than where they lived last year. Most of us no longer live in the midst of families into which we were born but rather among families that we have made!

Today's feast may lose some of its impact in this modern context; however, the Holy Family is also moving. It is not a convenient move. St. Luke tells us that the little family of Mary, Joseph and Jesus have had to move temporarily from their hometown, Nazareth, seventy miles south to Bethlehem because among his remote ancestors, Joseph can count King David. All David's many descendants had to return to his hometown of Bethlehem to be registered by the occupying Romans for a census. Consequently the Child is born not in Nazareth but in Bethlehem.

The Jewish law then required that each male child be redeemed. This ceremony may have had roots in a time long before Jesus, when child sacrifice was common. Rather than practice such a heinous custom, the ancient Hebrews substituted a ceremony of redemption and consecration of the newborn child. The sacrifice of poor people was a two turtle doves or pigeons. The temple was in Jerusalem and that required another journey of seven miles on foot. A surprise was to follow. After making the required sacrifice, Mary and Joseph encounter Simeon. He has good and bad news, the type of news that always seems to happen when people move from place to place. Simeon is an elderly man and to him, it has been revealed that he will not see death until the Messiah arrives. The moment he sees Jesus, Simeon knows that his desire has been realized. His response is the prayer: the Nunc Dimittis - "Now dismiss your servant, O Lord... for my eyes have seen your salvation... a light of revelation to the Gentiles (non-Jews) and the glory of your people, Israel". That sounds wonderful!

Now the bad news, as an adult, the Child will not always be accepted. He will be a sign that is contradicted. Typically Mary will share the sufferings of Her Son in the way that all mothers or fathers suffer when their children are suffering. Another insightful elderly person, Anna, appears and she thanks God because this is the Child, Who has come to those awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. Probably completely perplexed, Mary and Joseph take the Newborn home to Nazareth where He was raised.

If you moved from an old neighborhood, which was always home when you were growing up, then you know that good things and bad things can come your way. There are new "good neighbors" and new "bad neighbors" but also new opportunities for schools or shopping or Church, even as you miss your old church and neighborhood. So what can we learn from this feast of the Holy Family?

The first reading from the Old Testament Book of Sirach gives a hint: Do not abandon the important relationships, even if they are now long-distant relationships. This is especially true for parents, who gave us life and to whom honor and kindness are due. In the second reading Paul advises his Colossian Church to treat others, whether in the new relationship of the Church family or otherwise, with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. This keeps old friends and helps to make new ones.

In the Gospel, we find Mary and Joseph observing the teachings of their Jewish faith. Anna prayed constantly - she kept the conversation with God ongoing. Simeon's "Nunc Dimittis" Prayer indicates that God is active among all people and therefore we should build new relationships with those who are new to us or different from those we have known in the past.

Whether from a large or small blood family we are all members of a very large diverse family. The great symbol of family relations in all cultures is to gather around a common table to eat. When we gather at the Eucharistic table we share Food with a family called into existence by God's love - His family which is modeled on the loving kindness of the family at Nazareth.

In Christ,  
Monsignor McGuirl

**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.

**THANK YOU!**

Your support of our Christmas Giving Tree and Be An Angel programs has, once again, made it possible for all of us to brighten the lives of many this Christmas Season.

The gifts collected have been given to Catholic Charities, and to Bridge To Life for distribution, and of course to many of our own parishioners who are presently homebound.

There will also be happy faces in several families that have been “adopted” by some of our parishioners. These families will have gifts to open on Christmas thanks to the people who adopted them.

God Bless all of you for your generosity!

**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.

**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.

**DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE**

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



**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). Why not bring in the New Year with your fellow parishioners?

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.

**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

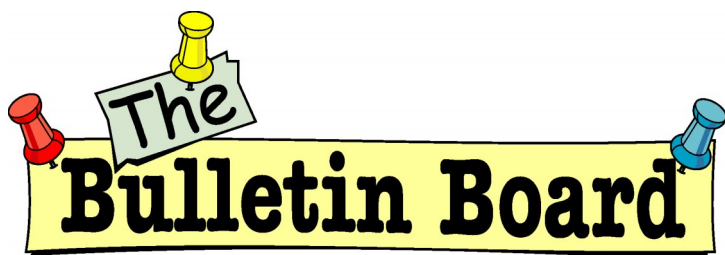
**FEEL GREAT & LOOK GREAT**

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**

**50-50 RAFFLE WINNERS**

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

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize: Ed Garrity	\$258.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize: Deborah & Ed Dougherty	\$129.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize: Gertrude DiCapua	\$129.00
4 <sup>th</sup> Prize: Joanne & Karl Hellerich	\$64.00
5 <sup>th</sup> Prize: Mr. & Mrs. John D'Agostino	\$64.00



# The Bulletin Board

- **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](mailto:brendan@bfcamp.com).
- "Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God." Let us learn to comfort each other better by attending a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend**. The next Weekends are July 14-15, 2018 in Bayside, NY and Sept. 14-16, 2018 in Huntington, NY. For more information, call Richard & Pinky Arteca at 877-697-9963 or visit at <https://bqwwme.org>.

## 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](http://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](mailto: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.

## 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!

