

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday January 13th
 8:30 AM Emilia Soriano
 5:00 PM Mary Russomanno

Sunday January 14th
 8:30 AM Mary Foertsch
 10:00 AM Parish Mass
 12:00 PM Georgina Rada
 5:00 PM Alfred & Giovanna Infosino

Monday January 15th
 8:30 AM Leonard Quigley & William Kirby
 12:00 PM Helen Petti

Tuesday January 16th
 8:30 AM William DeGray Simonton
 12:00 PM Peter Ruelius (20th Anniversary)

Wednesday January 17th
 8:30 AM Anina Sola
 12:00 PM

Thursday January 18th
 8:30 AM Felipe S. Brito
 12:00 PM Theresa Sevcik (100th Birthday)

Friday January 19th
 8:30 AM Isabella Minischetti (36th Anniversary)
 12:00 PM Cecelia Koluch

Saturday January 20th
 8:30 AM Georg Jagusch
 5:00 PM Serafina Sauro

Sunday January 21st
 8:30 AM Kathleen Armstrong
 10:00 AM Parish Mass
 12:00 PM Nicholas Juliano
 5:00 PM Margarita Hernandez

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, Joe Catanzaro, Joel Rivera, James Jagiello, 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

Audrey Busch
 Rev. William A. Smith

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

SUNDAY – January 14th
Second Sunday In Ordinary Time

MONDAY – January 15th
Weekday
 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
 -All Offices & Buildings Closed

TUESDAY - January 16th
Weekday
 -Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY – January 17th
Saint Anthony, Abbot
 -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 – January 18th
Weekday
 -Centering Prayer-Rectory at 2:30pm & 7:30pm
 -CCD 6th & 7th Gr.-School at 4:00pm
 -RCIA-Rectory at 7:30pm
 -Baptism Class– Rectory at 7:30pm
 -Boy Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:30pm

FRIDAY – January 19th
Weekday
 -Girl Scouts-Parish Hall at 4:00pm & 6:00pm

SATURDAY – January 20th
Weekday
 -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.

**BAPTISMS**

We welcome into our faith community all those who were baptized in the month of December 2017:
 Jaylene Camila Vitjathorn

**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 to arrange your memorial.

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,

St. Andrew was one of the apostles closest to Jesus. From the Biblical evidence, Peter and his brother, Andrew, and James and his brother, John, seem to have formed an inner core among the Twelve Apostles. Apparently all four were fishermen and may have cooperated with one another in their business. All seemed to have homes on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee. Peter and Andrew came from Bethsaida, the ruins of which are now in-land due to silting in the north part of the Sea of Galilee. Later the brothers moved to the larger and more prosperous town of Capernaum. Andrew's name in Greek translates as "manly" and indeed the dragnet fishing of the type they did required that the fishermen be in top notch condition. Despite all of that, Andrew is not quoted too much in the Scriptures. But when he does speak, his speech tends to be of the same type. Andrew leads others to Jesus, and then steps back!

The Gospel reading (John 1:35-42) that we hear this weekend is just such a narrative. Andrew is apparently a disciple of John the Baptist. John, though from a priestly family (Priesthood in ancient Judaism was "inherited" and we know that Zechariah, John's father, was a priest who served occasionally in the Temple in Jerusalem). John seems to have rejected the temple liturgy in favor of his own. Usually rites of purification were conducted at the temple. John was conducting a rite of baptism (the original meaning of the word is "to bath") at the River Jordan. Andrew was part of the large crowd attracted to John.

At least on one occasion, Jesus was incognito in the crowd but John spots Him and cries out: "Behold the Lamb of God". Again this is reminiscent of temple language. Lambs were sacrificed to God in the Jerusalem temple. John recognizes that Jesus would be the ultimate lamb offered to God. The perfection of humanity, all that humanity could hope to be, will be offered to God! Two of John's disciples decide to follow "the Lamb of God", Jesus. Jesus asks them a question that resonates with us: "What are you looking for?" In answer they address Jesus with the honorific, "Rabbi" (teacher), where are you staying? Jesus replies: "Come and see!"

After remaining with Jesus for a day, they are convinced that they have found what they are looking for. They have found the Messiah. We now discover that one of the two disciples, who spent the day with Jesus, was Andrew, Peter's brother. What does Andrew do? He does what he is often pictured as doing in the Scriptures, he brings others to Jesus. Now he brings his own brother, Peter (Simon) to Jesus. Immediately Jesus perceives something in Simon and nicknames him "Cephas (in Greek, "Petros", in Latin "Petrus" and in English "Peter"), which means "rock". This "rock" despite his later backsliding and character flaws will eventually be the foundation rock of the new community of followers of Jesus.

Our faith journey is much the same as that of Andrew. What are we looking for? Do we find it in Jesus and His message of a loving God, Who calls us to share His life? Does that message resonate with us? Does it give meaning and purpose, depth and color to our lives? If so, can we keep it secret? No! Like Andrew we too must lead others to Jesus. Andrew then becomes a model for all of us. Andrew was the first evangelist and His work continues in us.

In Christ,
Monsignor John A. McGuirl

ASH WEDNESDAY IS COMING

It's that time of year again. We will be burning Palm from last year for the Ashes on Ash Wednesday. There will be containers in the church vestibule for you to leave your Palm, if you wish. Please bring Palm no later than January 9th.

**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.

CENTERING PRAYER

Looking for quiet, inner peace, a deeper union with God? Centering Prayer has resumed.

NEW SCHEDULE FOR CENTERING PRAYER

Starting with the new year, the Tuesday afternoon Centering Prayer will be moved to Thursdays at 2:30pm., in the Rectory. All are welcome to join! Any questions please call Carol Powell at 718-261-6285.

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**

SPECIAL BALANCE & FALL PREVENTION CLASS

Gerard McNiff, the instructor of the regular Wednesday classes here at OLM, will present this special class on **January 31st, 2018 at 2:00pm in the Parish Hall.** He will be giving tips on improving your balance, mobility, and posture, and teaching ways to prevent falls as well as things to do to improve flexibility and focus. Remember! Life is all about balance.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU to one and all for the support that you gave to our food pantry during the holiday season. Because of your generosity many families, less fortunate than many of us, were able to enjoy special Thanksgiving and Christmas meals.

Unfortunately, **hunger knows no season**, and the need continues. Due to the large number of people looking for help during the holidays, **The Pantry shelves are literally bare!**

Food items needed: cereal, cereal bars, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruits/meats/soups, tuna fish, pasta sauces, Chef Boyardee pastas, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, Parmalat/powdered milk, paper towels, bathroom tissue, toothpaste, soaps, and other personal hygiene items. **Please Help!**

**OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC ACADEMY
CHANGE DRIVE**

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy is having its annual Change Drive. There are two collection containers at the back of the church. Please consider donating some spare change. The money we collect will be added to the profits of our upcoming Scholastic Book Fair, which will be held in the Parish Hall from Wednesday, January 24th to Sunday, January 28th. It will be used to purchase resources for our Academy Library and will be matched by Scholastic, who will distribute an equivalent value of books to underprivileged children through organizations such as the *Kids In Need Foundation*, *Reader to Reader, Inc.*, and the *National Center for Families Learning*. A small donation from you can really make a huge difference in the lives of our students and children in need. Every little bit helps!

SAVE THE DATES

The **Annual Scholastic Book Fair** will take place at OLM from Wednesday, January 24th thru Sunday, January 27th, 2018. Details will follow in next week's bulletin

Our **Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy** will host **Open House** on January 28th, 2018 from 11:00am to 1:00pm and on February 1st, 2018 from 9:30am to 11:00am

OLM will be holding our **annual Blood Drive** on Sunday, February 25th, 2018 from 8:45am to 2:45pm.

St. Patrick's/St. Joseph's Day celebration will take place on Saturday, March 17th, 2018.

IS IT SPRING YET?

There are approximately 70 days until Spring. Are you ready? It's time to think "**Spring Fling**"! If you are interested in being a vendor, call the Rectory at 718-268-6143 for more information.



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 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.
- "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 Artea at 877-697-9963 or visit at <https://bqwwme.org>.
- **Pray for me, Diocese of Brooklyn** is a new initiative where you can submit your prayer requests and pray for each others' intentions, in partnership with the Sister Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara in Borough Park, Brooklyn. To submit your prayer requests, go to www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/prayforme.

RICH IN MERCY PRAYER GROUP

Do you have a special need and would like prayer? Do you want to integrate into a community of fraternal love and sharing? All are invited to come and join the weekly prayer group filled with lively songs of praise and worship to Our Lord Jesus Christ. The group meets on Mondays, in the Church at 7:30pm (there will be no meeting on January 15th)

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

DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

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

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.

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. Its 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.
- St. Margaret Church, Middle Village, will be sponsoring a Blood drive on Sunday, January 21st from 9:00am to 3:00pm in their Parish Hall.

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!

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**