

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	February 17th
8:30 AM	Bolivar & Robert Almeida
5:00 PM	William Walters
Sunday	February 18th
8:30 AM	Eleanor & James Mara
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Kathleen Palumbo
5:00 PM	John DeBiase
Monday	February 19th
8:30 AM	Homai Gharda
12:00 PM	Regina Schuyler
Tuesday	February 20th
8:30 AM	Filippo & Benedetta Bartolomeo
12:00 PM	Richard Linsangan
Wednesday	February 21st
8:30 AM	Bolivar & Robert Almeida
12:00 PM	Bernadette Boyle
Thursday	February 22nd
8:30 AM	_____
12:00 PM	Philomena Tyrell
Friday	February 23rd
8:30 AM	_____
12:00 PM	Edward F. Dolan
Saturday	February 24th
8:30 AM	_____
5:00 PM	Mary Kelly (Birthday Remembrance)
Sunday	February 25th
8:30 AM	Louis & Pauline Pfohl
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	McBride & Affrunti Families
5:00 PM	James Conroy

PRAY FOR THE SICK

James Leung, Alice Coleman, Robert & Mary Tardona, Richard Kelly, Rose Jonsson, Mary Ann Matecki, Vincent Lucanie, Patrick Norton, Diane Kitson, Peggy Racanelli, Maureen Medina, Jeanne Woods, 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, Manuel Juan Perez, Dianne Nudelman, Inez Arastia, Sofia Robello, Lorraine Kohlmann, Samuel Mantilla, Marianne Albert, Caroline Pugliese, Ervin Dudas, Rev. Joseph Gurdak, OFM, Cap., Patricia Matecki, Patricia Riddick, Salvatore Tuminello, Daniella Salcau, Joe Catanzaro, Joel Rivera, Felipe Vallejo, Agatha Tardi, Adam Martini, Christine Smolenski, Louis Barberi, 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; Major 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**

Eliot Hirschorn
Anthony Perez
Rose Heffernan

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – February 18th**

First Sunday of Lent

MONDAY – February 19th

Lenten Weekday

Presidents' Day

-All Buildings & Offices Closed

TUESDAY - February 20th

Lenten Weekday

WEDNESDAY – February 21st

Lenten Weekday

-Exercise Class-Parish Hall at 9:00am

-Golden Age-Parish Hall at 12:30pm - **All Are Welcome**

THURSDAY – February 22nd

The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle

-Centering Prayer-Rectory at 2:30pm & 7:30pm

-RCIA-Rectory at 7:30pm

FRIDAY – February 23rd

Lenten Weekday

-Girl Scouts-Parish Hall at 6:00pm

SATURDAY – February 24th

Lenten Weekday

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

MEMORIAL WORSHIP FUND

Many thanks for donations to the Parish Memorial Worship fund given **in memory of:**

Thomas DiNucci

by

Diane Golez & Thomas Cruthers

TABERNACLE LIGHT

Many thanks for this week's donation of the Tabernacle Light given in **loving memory of:**

Bernadette Boyle

by

Kathleen & Ralph Nocera

**BREAD AND WINE**

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

Bernadette Boyle

by

Kathleen & Ralph Nocera



Dear Brothers & Sisters,

This weekend is the first weekend of Lent. Lent is a new beginning. Sometimes beginnings are welcomed, other times half and half! We welcome Lent as a time to make our faith fresh, but we know from previous Lents, that it's hard to keep going and Lent is a long time - over a month! Lent is a time for almsgiving and for more fervent prayer. We live busy lives and there is a great deal of emphasis on enjoying life; yet, a life without prayer is a life without the joy of the Presence of God. If we do not pray we are not Christians at full potential; we are only walking when we could be flying! We might ask ourselves what the real purpose of Lent is.

The focus of Lent is, not on what we give up but, on what we are given. We focus our minds on the self-giving love of Jesus which we will celebrate in Holy Week. Often, it's difficult to believe in the tender love of God. But the reason Jesus came among us is that He is the icon of compassionate divine love. If we want to know how God views us, we have only to look at the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Each cure, each miracle was done by Jesus in order to assist others to have a fuller life. Each of those loving acts are indicators of God's desire to give the fullness of life to each one of us.

Lent pours the grace of God's forgiveness into our world. We need to know that God is bigger than any of our sins, wars, violence and hatred. God wants His kingdom to come. Lent is our time of saying 'yes' to a partnership with God in saving the world from the effects of evil and sin.

Pray a bit, read the Gospel every day, do something good daily for another person – this is the way to share in the saving love of God. Maybe we can ask what our Lent does for others rather than just what we are doing for Lent. It is a time of renewal, which is manifested in love, forgiveness and the care of others.

The word "Lent" is an old English word which means "springtime". May this Lent really be a new springtime in the lives of each of us. Through prayer, through fasting and by forgiving others or not harboring grudges, and through donations from our surplus to help the poor, may we, like Jesus in the desert for forty days, overcome temptation and thus be well prepared to celebrate Easter.

In Christ,
Deacon Dean

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 for a deceased family member, the Consolation Minister actually makes an unpleasant experience a bit easier to bear while, at the same time, offering much needed support. 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.

BLOOD DRIVE

OUR LADY OF MERCY is sponsoring the New York Blood Center's Blood Drive on **SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25th, 2018** in the **Parish Hall from 8:45AM to 2:45PM.**

REMEMBER! The need for blood is constant! The Center requires a minimum of 2500 units of blood daily to service the five boroughs. Unfortunately at this time of year a combination of weather conditions, winter vacations, and the prevalence of the flu have diminished the Center's inventory. At present there is an urgent need for donors of all types. **Your donation matters** as the following experience of one of our parishioners will attest to.

Hello to all my fellow OLM parishioners. My name is Renate Vecchione and some of you may remember when I was working as a part time sacristan back in 2010. I am here to say **THANK YOU!** Thank you to all of those who have been blood donors throughout the years. I am also asking those of you who are considering being donors to please know that the blood you donate is needed badly and will be used quickly.

I have been battling a rare blood cancer, Mantle Cell Lymphoma since 2011. I cannot tell you how many units of blood I needed to stay alive. You see after a session of chemotherapy, your hemoglobin levels and platelets go down severely. When this happens you are too dizzy and weak to walk. I used to try to get up and all I did was succeed in hitting my head on the corner of a wooden bed or the granite tile. You also cannot breathe, it is too painful. Imagine trying to breathe in while a gorilla is sitting on your chest and swords are through your back. Your donations of blood and platelets have given me my life back. Without your help I would not be here to **THANK YOU.**

When I was receiving the transfusions I would always wonder about the person who was so generous in their donation. I knew I would leave after the transfusion with good energy as only someone who is one with the spirit would be a donor.

Again I **THANK YOU** with all my heart and know your donations are badly needed and will be used. For those considering donating, please think of someone like myself with cancer and needing a fighting chance to live. God Bless. Renate.

PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING YOUR PRECIOUS GIFT OF LIFE.

Literature is available in the vestibule of the church for your review. For further information please contact Carol Flaherty in the Rectory Office 718-268-6143. WALK-INS are welcome, appointments are not essential. Please bring a PHOTO ID, and your DONOR ID CARD or DONOR ID NUMBER (if you have one) with you on February 25th.

Volunteers are needed throughout the day to assist the donors. If you can offer an hour or two of your time please leave your name and phone number at the Rectory Office 718 268 6143.



ST. PATRICK/ST. JOSEPH DAY PARTY



Last year was so much fun that we are doing it again. Come celebrate two great saints with food, drink, music and dancing on March 17th, from 6:00 to 10:00pm at OLM's Parish Hall. DJ Dave Brennan of Afino Entertainment will bring his magnificent sound system, light and dancing show to lead the jigs, reels, conga lines, and singalongs. Tickets are \$50/person and include Irish and Italian Cuisine, soft drinks, coffee, tea, and desert. BYOB if you desire. Ticket purchase flyers will be available in the bulletin and the Church. To make your song and dance requests or to get more information, please contact **Helen or Jimmy at 718-793-2033.**

FOOD PANTRY NEWS



Unfortunately, hunger knows no season, and the need for food continues. 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!**

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.

LENTEN BIBLE PROGRAMS

- Tuesday Evenings Beginning February 27:
Bible Study at 7:30-8:45 p.m.
- Thursday Afternoons/Evenings Beginning March 1:
Scripture Sharing and Prayer at 2:30 – 4:00 pm
(repeated at 7:30 -9:00 pm)

BOTH PROGRAMS MEET IN THE RECTORY BASEMENT and are conducted by David and Carol Powell respectively in the Rectory Basement.

Any questions, reach us at the Religious Ed Office at 718-261-6285 or olmrcyreligion@gmail.com

DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

February 21, 2018	NO ACTIVITY	
February 28, 2018	Divine Mercy Devotion	6:30pm



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 Artega 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.
- **Part-time Social Worker Position Open** for a small Long Term Care Facility (under 100 employees) in Queens Village. Geriatric experience needed. Please fax Resume to 718-464-4308 or email to qphr@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

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**

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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Parish Pay has transitioned over to "WeShare". If you used Parish Pay and are experiencing any problems with the transition or if you wish to **register for on line giving** you can call 800-950-9952 option 1 & then option 2 or email weshare@4lpi.com.

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.

CHOIR NEWS

Our choir season has begun and we always 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. 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. The next scheduled meetings are February 5, March 5 and March 19, 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 **Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Charismatic Prayer Group** is organizing a pilgrimage to the National Shrine, Stockbridge, MA Sunday, April 8. Bus departs 6:30 a.m. (sharp) from OLQM church (corner Ascan Ave. and Queens Blvd). Cost: \$50 per person. **Wear good walking shoes!** Tickets are first come, first served, so reserve early and don't miss out! Call any of these prayer group members to request tickets: Cely De Borja: 718-255-1654 or 347-743-2304 Cecile Mendoza: 718-674-6551 or 347-453-4147 Virgie Punto: 917-770-0897 Marlyn Pagmanua: 347-791-4398 Nellie Milite: 718-704-3862

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!

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