

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**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

**Monday February 26th**  
 8:30 AM Marino Stucchini  
 12:00 PM Joseph & Catherine Affrunti

**Tuesday February 27th**  
 8:30 AM In Thanksgiving (Living Birthday Intention)  
 12:00 PM Caroline, Michael & Michael Sassi Jr.  
 and Roland Pugliese

**Wednesday February 28th**  
 8:30 AM John Taraska (70th Anniversary)  
 12:00 PM Fred Sorrentino

**Thursday March 1st**  
 8:30 AM  
 12:00 PM In Honor of Saint Joseph

**Friday March 2nd**  
 8:30 AM Deceased Members of Butler & Mara Families  
 12:00 PM John Stanick

**Saturday March 3rd**  
 8:30 AM  
 5:00 PM Dottie Phillips

**Sunday March 4th**  
 8:30 AM Rosemary DePaola  
 10:00 AM Parish Mass  
 12:00 PM Theresa & Ignatius Sevcik  
 5:00 PM John Keane

**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, 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**

Msgr. John E. Mahoney  
 Dottie Phillips

**THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**

**SUNDAY – February 25th**  
*Second Sunday of Lent*

**MONDAY – February 26th**  
*Lenten Weekday*  
 -Scripture Study-Rectory Meeting Room at 7:30pm  
 -Prayer Group-Church at 7:30pm

**TUESDAY - February 27th**  
*Lenten Weekday*  
 -Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm  
 -Bible Study-Rectory at 7:30pm

**WEDNESDAY – February 28th**  
*Lenten 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-Rectory at 6:30pm

**THURSDAY – March 1st**  
*Lenten Weekday*  
 -Scripture Sharing & Prayer-Rectory at 2:30pm & 7:30pm  
 -RCIA-Rectory at 7:30pm  
 -Boy Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:30pm

**FRIDAY – March 2nd**  
*Lenten Weekday*  
 -Girl Scouts-Parish Hall at 4:00pm & 6:00pm

**SATURDAY – March 3rd**  
*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.**

**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.

**TABERNACLE LIGHT**

Many thanks for this week's donation of the Tabernacle Light given as a :  
**Birthday Thanksgiving**  
 by  
 Indira Richards



**BREAD AND WINE**

Many thanks for this week's donation of Bread & Wine given as a :  
**Birthday Thanksgiving**  
 by  
 Indira Richards



Dear Parishioners;

Over five years ago, I was on a Priests' Retreat, directed by Bishop Frank Caggiano, in the Holy Land. We had the chance to visit many of the locations mentioned in the Gospels, including Mount Tabor, the site of the Transfiguration. Tabor is an odd mountain - it stands alone in the Valley of Jezreel, one of the most fertile places in Israel. The first time I saw Mount Tabor, the mountain-top was shrouded in fog. On approaching the cathedral that now stands on the site of the Transfiguration, only the golden light shining from inside the church could be seen. It dawned on me that the experience of Peter, James and John at the moment of the Transfiguration might not have been too dissimilar.

However, this week, before we reach the Gospel about the Transfiguration, we have a first reading from the Book of Genesis. It is the absolutely horrific story of the attempted sacrifice of Isaac. Would God ask Isaac's father, Abraham, to sacrifice the son of promise? After leaving his home and establishing his family in what is now the Holy Land, Abraham has been promised by God that he will be the father of many people. His descendants would be through his legitimate son, Isaac. Now God asks Abraham to sacrifice this boy! On a human scale this is a horrific request and worse yet is that Abraham is prepared to do so. Though the angel of the Lord intervenes and stops the sacrifice just in time, would God test Abraham in such an awful way? Jewish and Christian biblical scholars have stumbled over these passages for ages. Was the story merely a dramatic way to show Abraham's fidelity to God? Did Abraham misunderstand God's instructions? Was the incident meant to be a diatribe against the ancient custom of child-sacrifice? Scholars are at loss for words.

Perhaps more to the point of the modern reader, is the question of why the story is included in the Lectionary for Mass? The composers of the Mass Lectionary may have included this ancient story about the Patriarchs because it points toward another One Whose death would bring Life. Though Isaac did not die at the hands of his father, Abraham, it is through him that the promises of God are fulfilled. Isaac's son Jacob (Israel) would be the progenitor, the first life-giver of the Hebrew people. Through Jesus' death, life would come to all people.

In the Scriptures, mountains were viewed as sites of divine revelation. We have only to look back to the narratives about Moses in the Book of Exodus. On Tabor, the disciples are given a glimpse of who Jesus is. That glimpse would sustain them through the uncertain days ahead when Jesus would face His passion and death. Now the three disciples are given to understand that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. The presence of Elijah, the prophet, and Moses, the Lawgiver, indicate Jesus' continuity with the Prophetic and Law traditions of His people. The cloud signified the divine Presence and the Voice leaves no doubt as to Jesus' identity. "This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him."

The only instruction given by the Voice is "Listen to Him." After the vision Jesus instructs the disciples not to relate what they have seen until after the Resurrection when the revelation on Mount Tabor would be fulfilled. The presence of the disciples, the allusions to the history of their people foreshadows the reality that Jesus would be in every age, God's beloved Son. To be His disciples we must listen to Him.

Monsignor John A. McGuirl

**BLOOD DRIVE**

OUR LADY OF MERCY is sponsoring the New York Blood Center's Blood Drive on **SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25<sup>th</sup>, 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.**

**Since it's Lent., why not give up just a little bit of your time in order to give someone the gift of life.**

Walk ins are most welcome!

**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.

**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 olmercyreligion@gmail.com

**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.

**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!**

Your donations help us keep the shelves stocked so we can provide nutritious food for our needy neighbors in and around our community. We are asking for your help in dropping off food, monetary donations or gift cards. If giving a **monetary donation**, please make all checks payable to Our Lady of Mercy Church (in the memo section please state Food Pantry or Human Services) and forward all cash or checks to the Rectory, 70 01 Kessel Street. **Food Pantry Hours 10:00 am – 11:00 am every Saturday of the month.**

**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!**

**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

**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.

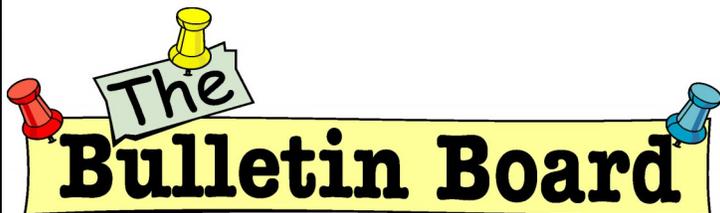
**DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE**

February 28, 2018	Divine Mercy Devotion	6:30pm
March 07, 2018	Divine Mercy Devotion	6:30pm
March 14, 2018	Divine Mercy Cenacle	6:30pm
March 21, 2018	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament	7:00pm
	Divine Mercy Chaplet	7:30pm
	Benediction	8:00pm
March 28, 2018	NO ACTIVITY	

### THE SHROUD OF TURIN

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, following the 12:00 P.M. mass, Mr. Anthony Hernandez, a Molloy college student, will give a presentation on the Turin Shroud in the Church. The shroud is a length of linen cloth bearing the image of a man who is alleged to be Jesus.

Mr. Hernandez has a replica of the shroud, which is about 14 feet in length, which will be on display at the time of his presentation. Please join us.



- **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](mailto:brendan@bfcamp.com).
- **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](http://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](mailto: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**

### 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](mailto:weshare@4lpi.com).

### IS IT SPRING YET?

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 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](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.
- **Our Lady Queen of Martyrs**, 110-06 Queens Blvd., Forest Hills, will hold its annual early spring **food festival, "Taste of the World"**, on **March 11th** from 2:30-5:00pm in McLaughlin Hall (the school building auditorium; entrance at back of parking lot on 72nd Road off Austin Street). Tickets \$25 in advance, \$30 the day of the event. And price includes samplings of foods and desserts from popular restaurants in Forest Hills and the neighboring communities. To purchase advance tickets call the OLQM rectory, 718-268-6251.
- 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

### 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