

MASS INTENTIONS

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Saturday | February 3rd |
| 8:30 AM | Maja Jedrak |
| 5:00 PM | Andrzej Woloszynowski |
| Sunday | February 4th |
| 8:30 AM | Martin Birley |
| 10:00 AM | Parish Mass |
| 12:00 PM | Tom DiNucci |
| 5:00 PM | Marija Babic |
| Monday | February 5th |
| 8:30 AM | Lorenzo Velazquez |
| 12:00 PM | |
| Tuesday | February 6th |
| 8:30 AM | Adam Martini (Living Intention) |
| 12:00 PM | |
| Wednesday | February 7th |
| 8:30 AM | Mary Tykowski |
| 12:00 PM | Tom DiNucci |
| Thursday | February 8th |
| 8:30 AM | Ernst Walter |
| 12:00 PM | |
| Friday | February 9th |
| 8:30 AM | |
| 12:00 PM | |
| Saturday | February 10th |
| 8:30 AM | Ronald Katsky |
| 5:00 PM | Angelo & Rosemary Sauro |
| Sunday | February 11th |
| 8:30 AM | Joseph DiCapua and BiFalco & DiCapua Families |
| 10:00 AM | Parish Mass |
| 12:00 PM | Lucia & Miguel Dordulaw |
| 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, 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, Joe Catanzaro, Joel Rivera, James Jagiello, Felipe Vallejo, Agatha Tardi, 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

Anna Mary Bennett
Ernst Walter
Maria Concepcion Luna Beaudin

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – February 4th**

Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time

MONDAY – February 5th

Saint Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

-Scripture Study-Rectory Meeting Room at 7:30pm

-Prayer Group-Church at 7:30pm

TUESDAY - February 6th

Saint Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs

-Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY – February 7th

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 – February 8th

Weekday

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

-CCD 6th & 7th Gr.-School at 4:00pm

-RCIA-Rectory at 7:30pm

-Boy Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:30pm

FRIDAY – February 9th

Weekday

-Girl Scouts-Parish Hall at 4:00pm & 6:00pm

SATURDAY – February 10th

Saint Scholastica, Virgin

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

**BREAD AND WINE**

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

loving memory of:

Francis Morison

by

Ann Morison

**TABERNACLE LIGHT**

Many thanks for this week's donation of the Tabernacle Light given

in loving memory of:

Francis Morison

by

Ann Morison

Dear Parishioners;

St. Mark's Gospel keeps a rapid pace. After leaving the synagogue where He cured the demoniac, Jesus enters the house of Peter. Peter lived in Capernaum on the north shore of the sea of Galilee. The location is fairly well established.

For many centuries, local Christians preserved the memory of the location of Peter's house. In the 8th century, when the area was part of the Byzantine (Eastern Roman) Empire, an octagonal church was built over the ruins of the house. An octagonal shape was reserved by the Byzantines for distinguished locations. Eventually the Church was destroyed during one of the many invasions of the Holy Land. The spot was remembered and several decades ago, the Franciscan Friars, who hold the Custody of the holy places, initiated excavations at this site with funds from the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

The ruins of the ancient church were uncovered and below it the ruins of a one room house. Interestingly, given Peter's known profession as a fisherman, ancient fish hooks were discovered in the ruins of the house! Above the excavations, the Franciscans constructed a large church, which resembles a flying saucer. The floor of the church contains large glass panels through which the visitor can look down into the ruins. On a priests' retreat several years ago I had the privilege of concelebrating Mass over what is quite possibly the ruins of Peter's house. This is the very place wherein Our Lord cured Peter's mother-in-law!

Jesus cures Peter's mother in law. The verb used in the original Greek is "egeiro" which was also the verb often used when describing the Resurrection. Once cured the mother-in-law is "raised". She resumes her normal activities, involving hospitality and service to her visitors. Here too the original Greek word is "diakoneo", which frequently describes Christian service. It is the word from which the modern word "deacon" is derived. Now Peter's mother-in-law is engaged in the mission of Jesus' disciples.

That same mission expands explosively when the town learns that Jesus is at Peter's home. "The whole town is gathered at the door". After a brief rest- Jesus' disciples come after Him - "everyone is looking for You" - and they go on to preach and heal throughout Galilee.

Jesus had the perplexing habit of warning people not speak about His cures; possibly for two reasons. One, He wished that His words would be taken with the same gravity as His cures. Yet even nowadays, people are much more likely to seek the dramatic and the sensational rather than do the hard work of hearing the Word and applying to life. Secondly, the timing is too early. The demons knew Who Jesus was because He is more powerful than they are - but Who He truly is will be revealed to His followers through His Passion, Death and Resurrection. In the meantime He must preach the goodness of a God who desires to share His life with us. Our Lord's miracles demonstrate and symbolize the Father's love. Not everyone in Israel was cured, not everyone today is cured, but those miraculous events give credence to Jesus' preaching. They point to a time when the fullness of life for Jesus' disciples will be achieved in the Father's Presence.

In Christ,
Monsignor McGuirl

Excavations

The preceding article began by mentioning excavations in Capernaum, Israel. But as you may have noticed, we will be doing our own bit of excavating here in the parish. The severe cold of the recent past plus the accompanying snow and ice have caused havoc on the side steps of the Church and rectory. Apparently the side-steps and their landings are composed of some type of aggregate. The steps have begun to crumble from the combined effects of freezing and thawing. The original granite central stairs, aside from some pointing, have held up well. So that our loyal parishioners are not injured on the crumbling stairs, we have closed them temporarily. I apologize for the inconvenience.

We have started to receive bids for the replacement of the steps. Those bids will also include the type of stone to be used. The present aggregate is not the strongest; the alternatives are blue stone or granite. If my memory serves, all the original steps were granite and they matched the central steps. For some reason, the original side steps were replaced about two decades ago. To simply repair the damaged steps would be expensive; however, to replace all the side steps is probably a better solution. Otherwise we can expect more of such repairs in the future.

This work may not have the glamour of excavating Peter's home in Capernaum but it is necessary for the safety of the Catholic Christian community in Forest Hills.

Periodically I will notify you of the progress of the work, which will probably begin after the conclusion of the snow period. Hopefully a good part of the funding can be drawn from our share of the *Generations of Faith* Campaign.

Monsignor McGuirl

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.

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.

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 **February 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 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
February 25th 2018**

On a hot day last August 49 members of our community responded to the plea to donate blood. Since each donation benefits 3 persons, the 41 pints of blood gave the gift of life to 73 people. **The urgent need to maintain an adequate supply of blood is constant.** Although you may never know whose life you have strengthened your life sustaining gift matters.

Our Lady of Mercy Church 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. Please give this vital gift of life through your self sacrificing donation. Literature is available for your review in the vestibule of the church. For further information, or to make an appointment to donate, please call Carol Flaherty in the Rectory Office (718 268 6143). Remember to bring your donor ID or ID number, and a photo ID with you on February 25th.

Volunteers are also needed throughout the day to assist the donors. If you are able to offer an hour or two of your time please leave your name, telephone number and time available at the Rectory Office.

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

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 a Holiday.

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!**

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.

50-50 RAFFLE WINNERS

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

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1 st Prize: Mary & Dennis Griffin | \$257.00 |
| 2 nd Prize: Margaret Merker | \$128.00 |
| 3 rd Prize: Jennifer Ciancimino | \$128.00 |
| 4 th Prize: The McCabe Family | \$64.00 |
| 5 th Prize: Michael & Eloise Mangino | \$64.00 |



The Bulletin Board

- **Northwell Health's Katz Institute for Women's Health** will host a **program and dinner** addressing *The Heart and Brain Connection, How to take ownership of your heart and brain health*. The program will take place at the West Side Tennis Club (Forest Hills) on February 15th at 6pm. Register online at: kiwh-heartbrainconnection.eventbrite.com - \$20(\$15 when 2 or more register together)
- **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 Arteca 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**

DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| February 7, 2018 | Divine Mercy Devotion | 6:30pm |
| February 14, 2018 | Divine Mercy Cenacle | 6:30pm |
| February 21, 2018 | Divine Mercy Chaplet | 7:00pm |
| | Benediction | 8:00pm |
| February 28, 2018 | Divine Mercy Devotion | 6:30pm |

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