

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	March 10th
8:30 AM	Joseph DiCapua & BiFalco & DiCapua Families
5:00 PM	Marie Martello
Sunday	March 11th
8:30 AM	Arthur Savarese (1st Anniversary in Heaven)
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	George Van Nostrand Sr.
5:00 PM	Nicholas R. Riccio
Monday	March 12th
8:30 AM	Soli Gharda
12:00 PM	Joan Sauro & Frances & Michael Albano
Tuesday	March 13th
8:30 AM	Fernando Tolentino
12:00 PM	Emma McCauley
Wednesday	March 14th
8:30 AM	Maria Wasiluk
12:00 PM	Nickie Vinaccio
Thursday	March 15th
8:30 AM	Judith Diaz
12:00 PM	John F. Haggerty
Friday	March 16th
8:30 AM	James P. Kelly (Birthday Remembrance)
12:00 PM	William Walters
Saturday	March 17th
8:30 AM	Nellie & Maurice Rooney
5:00 PM	Mary & Sabino Camporese
Sunday	March 18th
8:30 AM	Madeline Wales & Martin Hess (Anniversary in Heaven)
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Massimino Amoroso
5:00 PM	Patrick Dufficy

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, Dcn. Ed Smolenski, Frances Galson, Mary Wiley, 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

Arnold Davis

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – March 11th***Fourth Sunday of Lent*

-Breakfast with the Easter Bunny-Parish Hall at 9:00am

MONDAY – March 12th*Lenten Weekday*

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

-Prayer Group-Church at 7:30pm

TUESDAY - March 13th*Lenten Weekday*

-Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

-Bible Study-Rectory at 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY – March 14th*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 15th*Lenten Weekday*

-Scripture Sharing & 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 – March 16th*Lenten Weekday*

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

SATURDAY – March 17th*Lenten Weekday*

-Baptism-Church at 1:00pm

-St. Patrick/St. Joseph Party-Parish Hall at 6:00pm.

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:**

William Walters

by

Aine, Ted, & Mary

MEMORIAL WORSHIP FUND

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

Arnold Davis

by

Carol & Patrick Gorman

**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.

Dear Parishioners;

The first reading this Sunday gives us a peek into the Book of Chronicles. A chronicle is a concise history. The author of this Old Testament Book presents us with a brief overview of the history of his people. In this citation, the author describes the recklessness of the people and their conquest and exile into Babylon about five centuries before Jesus. While many of the peasantry were left on the land, it was the leadership class: the royal family, nobles and priests, who were exiled. After the Persians (Iranians) under Cyrus the Great conquered the Babylonians (basically present-day Iraq), the Jewish leadership was permitted to return home and rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple. In this return the Chronicler saw God's hand which had never abandoned His people. The Persian king, Cyrus, would have been surprised to learn that he was an agent of the Hebrew God, but unknowingly he was so. Through him God has acted with compassion to the people bound to Him by covenant.

The second reading is taken from Paul's letter to the community he had founded at Ephesus in Greece. Once again Paul reiterates God's merciful love extended to all people despite their sinfulness and transgressions. We are God's handiwork and graciously He has sought to save us. This He did of His own accord. Our good works overflow because God has shown compassion to us and we should show it to others.

The Gospel selection again this week taken from St. John. John's Gospel makes much of the themes of light versus darkness. A Jewish teacher, Nicodemus, who is also a member of the Supreme Jewish Council, the Sanhedrin, comes to Jesus under the cover of darkness. Their conversation leads to a discussion of an event narrated in the Old Testament Book of Exodus, the curing of the those bitten by snakes in the desert. Moses was instructed to fasten a bronze image of a snake to a pole. Anyone who looked on the bronze snake was cured. A similar emblem is still used in the medical world. Jesus indicates that the Son of Man (Jesus) too must be lifted up so that "everyone who believes in Him, may have eternal life."

In the original Greek, as John often does, he uses a word that has a double meaning. The expression, "lifted up" can mean the physical act of being lifted up but also it can mean "to exalt". John means it both ways. The Crucified Jesus, more than the bronze serpent, will bring eternal life. The use of the word is paradoxical - the lifted up (crucified) Jesus will be exalted. The Incarnate Son of God takes on the fullness of humanity even a hideous death on the cross, but through it comes the assurance of the Resurrection. Jesus came not to condemn the world, created by God, but rather to save it. Jesus is the light in the darkness. Like Nicodemus, we too must step into the light. Jesus is the light that leads us to the truth and the truth is that God loves us so much that He burst into our humanity and invited us to share His life.

With Jesus we may experience our Good Fridays but if the end of Jesus' story or ours was on that day, then again we would have the story of a good Man crushed by the powers of darkness. Good Friday is real enough and most of us experience elements of it at one time or another. But Easter is the final act, or more properly the New Beginning. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son so that everyone who believe in Him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but (rather) that the world might be saved through Him." (John 3:14-21).

In Christ,
Monsignor McGuirl

EASTER FLOWERS

As we did at Christmas, we are providing an opportunity for families to memorialize a loved one by making a donation of \$150.00 for Easter flowers. Names of all those memorialized will be published in our Bulletin, and flowers will remain on the altar and in Church for at least 3 weeks. Each donation will help us provide flowering plants for our altar decor. Help make this Easter magnificent! Arrangements can be made by contacting the Rectory Office at 718-268-6143.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY RETURNS

As of March 18th, the Sunday 12noon Mass will now be the Family Mass with the return of the Children's Liturgy of the Word, an age-appropriate liturgy for children through fourth grade, in the Parish Hall.

We are seeking volunteers to help bring the Word to our parish's children. Activity sheets are provided to help and no previous experience is necessary. For more details or to help, please email chrischildrensliturgy@gmail.com. Thank you!

**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.

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.

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!

On behalf of the Our Lady of Mercy Churches Food Pantry, I want to express sincere gratitude to the Boy Scout Troop & Pack 349 and their Scout leaders who conducted the Scouting for Food Campaign on March 3rd & 4th 2018. The Scouts collected non-perishable food items for the OLM food pantry. The food pantry relies on donations to feed the needy families in our community. The success of the Scout for Food drive ensures that local families will have healthy food available when they are in need.

To All Scouts who work towards becoming worthy and able men, thank you. Thank you for living the Scout Oath and Law, even when the world may tell you to do otherwise. Thank you for being honorable young men who dedicate their time to service. Thank you for your spirit, smiles, and bravery. You make all we do worth it.

God Bless,
Deacon Dean Dobbins

**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**.

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 olmmercyrreligion@gmail.com

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.

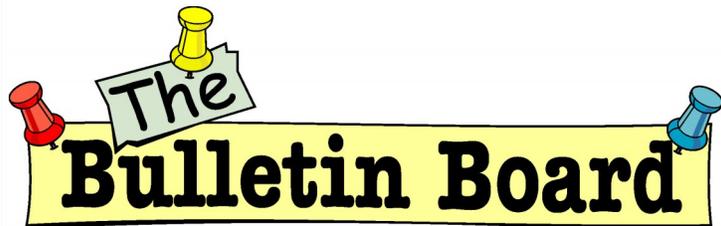
THE SHROUD OF TURIN

On March 18th, following the 12:00pm. 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.

DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

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	



- **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.
- **Graduates of Dominican Commercial H.S., Jamaica NY** are welcomed to join us in a **DC Tribute** on **4/22/18**. The building is being sold and we are gathering to enjoy one last day of memories and to thank the Dominican Sisters. Please contact: cathleenquinn@optonline.net for more details, or call 516-457-6923. Kindly RSVP if you are planning on attending. Doors will be open **11am - 2pm**.

CYO GIRLS SPRING SOCCER

OLM Sports will sponsor a girls soccer team for students in the 5th and 6th grades. The team will compete during the CYO Spring Season. Players who attend OL of Mercy or OL Queen of Martyrs are eligible to participate. In addition, players who live within the boundaries of OL of Mercy or OL Queen of Martyrs may register for the team. Additional information is available from Ed Quigley at 917-601-5393

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**

SPRING IS DEFINITELY IN THE AIR!!

We are still seeking vendors for our annual event to be held on Friday evening, May 11th and all day Saturday May 12th. The date just happens to be the weekend of Mother's Day. Application is on the website or at the Rectory.

We are also seeking volunteers who would like to share their time and talent in once again making this a successful and beautiful event. Call the Rectory for additional 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.
- **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!

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.