

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday March 3rd
 8:30 AM Michael Albert
 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

Monday March 5th
 8:30 AM Lucia & Miguel Dordulaw
 12:00 PM William Kirby & Leonard Quigley

Tuesday March 6th
 8:30 AM Luis & Remedios Del Mundo
 12:00 PM Clemansa Ardelean

Wednesday March 7th
 8:30 AM Victor Lamarque
 12:00 PM Maria Garrido

Thursday March 8th
 8:30 AM Vera Farrell & Sister Anne Louise
 12:00 PM Bridget Monaghan

Friday March 9th
 8:30 AM Deceased Members of the Sommero Family
 12:00 PM Robert Casaccio

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

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 Smolinski, 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

Rev. Billy Graham
 Jane Sotell
 Valeria Rulete Tolentino

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

SUNDAY – March 4th
Third Sunday of Lent
 -Confirmation Affirmation Mass-Church at 12:00pm

MONDAY – March 5th
Lenten Weekday
 -Scripture Study-Rectory Meeting Room at 7:30pm
 -Prayer Group-Church at 7:30pm

TUESDAY - March 6th
Lenten Weekday
 -Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm
 -Bible Study-Rectory at 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY – March 7th
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
 -Practice for First Penance-Church at 3:30pm
 -Divine Mercy-Rectory at 6:30pm

THURSDAY – March 8th
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 9th
Lenten Weekday
 -Girl Scouts-Parish Hall at 6:00pm
 -Stations of the Cross-Church after 8:30am & 12:00pm Masses

SATURDAY – March 10th
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.



BAPTISMS

We welcome into our faith community all those who were baptized in the month of February, 2018:
 Domenic Joseph Biondo



DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

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	

Dear Parishioners;

Permit me to bring your attention to a letter which was transmitted to members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem of the Northeast Lieutenancy. A copy of that letter immediately follows, and concerns a matter of grave importance, especially as we approach the most sacred time of the year.

Most of the events of Our Lord's final days on earth took place in Jerusalem or nearby. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem is built over the sites of Our Lord's crucifixion, burial and Resurrection. The Church is owned by the Eastern Orthodox Church but its care is shared by the Catholic and the major Orthodox communities. This crucial location was remembered by early Christians even after Romans defeated the Jewish rebels in 70 A.D. The Romans took pains to obliterate Jewish and Christian shrines in Jerusalem. Conveniently they built pagan temples on many of the holy sites thus preserving the memory of their locations!

In the fourth century (300s A.D.) the first basilica of the Holy Sepulchre was built by the Christian Empress, Helena, (the mother of Constantine the Great, who was baptized on his deathbed but was always friendly toward the Christian Church). Helena also built the basilica over Our Lord's birth place in Bethlehem. The Holy Sepulchre was destroyed several times by invaders but rebuilt by the Crusaders in the 12th century. It is their Church that still stands.

The Christian Churches of the Holy Land have agreed to close the Holy Sepulchre Church for a length of time in order to protest moves by the Municipality of Jerusalem detrimental to the local Christian community, which is mostly Arabic and Palestinian. The closure is unprecedented since the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is the primary Christian shrine in the Holy Land and the focus of most pilgrimages to the Near East. It behooves the Israeli authorities and the municipal government of Jerusalem to ameliorate the conditions mentioned in the Cardinal's letter since, if for no other reason, a good part of the local economy is based on tourists and pilgrims. If the Holy Sepulchre remains closed; it is one less reason for Christians to visit the Holy Land*.

I have had the privilege of visiting Israel twice in recent years and it is undeniable that the Gospels come alive in a vibrant, exciting way after a visit to the land of Jesus' birth, ministry, death and Resurrection. At risk are the many hospitals, orphanages, schools, senior centers, day care programs, hospices and other projects which serve, among other things, to keep the small local Christian communities (both Eastern Orthodox and Catholic) alive. Christians have fled the Middle East in record numbers because of the unsettled political and civic situation. If the Christian community collapses in the Holy Land, our ancient shrines will become religious museums devoid of a vibrant local Christian population. Since the twelfth century much of the care of the Catholic shrines and institutions has been in the hands of dedicated Franciscan Friars and Sisters. A large amount of the financial support has come from the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem of which seven parishioners, including myself and Father Greg, are members.

In Christ,
Monsignor John A. McGuirl

*(Perhaps because of the protestations of the Christian community, no sooner had I finished this message than word arrived that the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre had been reopened and that the Christian communities (basically Eastern Orthodox and Catholic) had entered into negotiations with the Israeli authorities. The government had not intended to tax the actual church buildings but rather the ancillary programs of the Churches, for instance guest houses and other non-specifically church buildings. However all of these programs, either support the local Christians (through employment opportunities and by pouring money into the economy) or operate for the convenience of the thousands of pilgrims who come to the Holy Land every year and again bring needed funds for the local economy. J. McG.)

Letter from H. Em. Cardinal O'Brien

Dear Knights and Dames, Brothers and Sisters in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem:

The events of recent days in Jerusalem are alarming and merit the special attention of our Order.

In a rare and desperate initiative to keep Christian life alive in the Holy Land, Christian Churches leaders have decided to close the doors the Church of the Holy Sepulchre to protest the Municipality of Jerusalem's "Systematic campaign against the churches and the Christian community in the Holy Land."

Betraying international treaties and centuries of practice, all Christian properties, except churches themselves, are being taxed tens of billions of dollars. This includes hundreds of agencies, including Christian schools, hospitals, homes for the needy, health care facilities, and pilgrimage centers such as the Notre Dame Center in Jerusalem. Many church assets are being frozen, fines threatened, and hundreds of thousands of dollars seized from Christian churches in an effort that will severely curtail Christian freedom of practice. These are acts of unprecedented discrimination against Christians.

I encourage all our Lieutenancies' members to offer prayers in light of this further evidence of Christian discrimination. And at a time when Western governments tend to show special favor to Jerusalem, members might bring these anti-Christian discriminatory actions to the attention of government leaders.

Edwin Cardinal O'Brien
Grand Master
Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

From The Pastors Desk (cont'd):

Local Parish Repairs

Every parishioner is probably aware of the closure of the two side stairways in the front of the Church. The severe weather of last month plus ample amounts of snow and rain have wreaked havoc on the those steps. As a safety measure they are temporarily closed off. We are in process of receiving bids to replace the steps with granite (which was the original material used before these present steps were built apparently about twenty years ago). The present material is a type of granulate and it has not held up well, especially in our climate of extremes of cold and heat. For several years our custodial team has patched the landings on these stairs but now the steps themselves are failing.

Though we are all inconvenienced by the temporary closure of these stairs, the safety of our parishioners is paramount. As it is, we have two lawsuits pending from people that fell on our property. The first stems from a fall on the main front steps two years ago by a gentlemen leaving a funeral Mass. The second of more recent date is the result of fall on the rear walkway (between the garage and Church sacristy). Snow which had melted in the daylight, froze overnight forming barely discernible black ice. The lady who fell in this case was on her way to the funeral Mass of a relative. Even with the greatest amount of pro-active care, our facilities are subject to law suits if someone is injured on or in them. Very often one of custodians remains here overnight when there are predictions of a heavy snow storm in order to clear our sidewalks and stairs as soon as possible. But even with all that, accidents happen.

A second area of concern is the poor quality of our sidewalks. Many squares, or sections, of our sidewalks are being slowly lifted by the intrusion of the tree roots. In each case the trees are City trees (between the curb and sidewalk the trees were planted by and are the responsibility of the City of New York). To that end, I have been in touch with the Borough President's Office about the most egregious case on 70th Avenue about fifty feet south of Juno Street. It is an accident waiting to happen. Considering that the sidewalks facing the church property are public domain and used by the general population, it is important to have these repairs made. Again we are taking bides to have much of our sidewalks replaced. I have set Easter week as a start date since schools will not be in session that week.

It is for the above reasons, that collections for maintenance are important. In addition, we are still receiving some funds from the Generations of Faith Campaign so it is most equally important that our pledges to that Campaign be honored. The Generations of Faith returns to the parish have gone a long way in helping to fund smaller repairs. Similarly as we begin this 2018 Annual Catholic Appeal, it is good to remember that everything over our Diocesan mandated goal of \$81,320 is returned to the parish.

These sidewalk and step repairs will be very expensive. In addition to them, I do want the internal church tower examined again. A parishioner, who is a Civil Engineer, examined it about ten years ago, but with pollution, the rumbling of the bus and other traffic on Kessel Street, it probably is time to have it examined again.

Sincerely,
Monsignor McGuirl

The Shroud of Turin

In another location in this bulletin, I presented some the difficulties confronting the contemporary Church in the Holy Land. Yet one of the relics, that comes to us from the Holy Land, through a convoluted history, is what is called the Shroud of Turin. It is a fourteen foot long linen cloth which preserves the frontal and dorsal image of a man who, if not Jesus, died in a similar way. It is about two thousand years of age and the fabric contains dander and particles from fauna and foliage found in the Holy Land. The images on the Shroud became much clearer after the invention of photography. The negative image of the positive print is clearly that of a man who suffered crucifixion as well as a preliminary crowning with thorns, and a severe flogging. A spear mark also is found on the body's image. Blood marks on the shroud are human blood and oddly enough they match the same blood type as those found in reputed Eucharistic miracles.

Is this the Shroud that wrapped the body of Jesus? Are the marks produced by the burst of energy at the resurrection?

As a perfect Lenten preparation for Holy Week, join us in Church after the 12:00 P.M. Mass on Sunday, March 18th. Mr. Anthony Hernandez, a college student at Molloy College in Rockville Centre, has made a personal study of the Shroud of Turin. He will give an interesting and informative presentation on the Shroud. He has an intense interest in this possible relic from Jesus' passion.

Anthony will bring with him a full size replica of the Shroud and he is most anxious to share his knowledge with us. If you have heard of the Shroud and wondered about it or perhaps never heard of it but are anxious to know more, then join us after the 12:00 P.M. Mass on March 18th.

Monsignor McGuirl

THANK YOU

A sincere THANK YOU to all the donors who gave their time on Sunday February 25th to participate in the Our Lady of Mercy Blood. 45 community members registered, and 41 pints of blood were collected. Since 1 pint serves 3 persons, through your goodness and self sacrifice 123 recipients have received the gift of life. There are several volunteers who assisted throughout the day. Their efficient and concerned attention guided the donors through all phases of the donation process. A very special THANK YOU to Ms. Carol Flaherty, Ms. Linda Dougherty, Mr. Jim Mara, Ms. Caitlin Murphy, and Ms. Pauline Szabados. Your selfless giving of your time and talent was genuinely appreciated.

With sincere gratitude we thank our fellow parishioner, Renate Vecchione, for sharing her experience of receiving hundreds of transfusions throughout the years. Her stamina and determination not only reflect her courage, but also convey the grateful response of the blood recipients. Offering this insight provided the encouragement to give their precious gift of life.

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!

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 olmercyrreligion@gmail.com

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.

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. 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..

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 sing-alongs. 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**.

**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.

50-50 RAFFLE WINNERS

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

1 st Prize: Joan Davis	\$257.00
2 nd Prize: Nanette M. Casey	\$128.00
3 rd Prize: Zina Martucci	\$128.00
4 th Prize: Paul A. Feddern	\$64.00
5 th Prize: Jean Glazer	\$64.00

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!