

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday December 15th
 8:30 AM Rose Pullano
 5:00 PM John & Anne Daly

Sunday December 16th
 8:30 AM William Kirby & Leonard Quigley
 10:00 AM Parish Mass
 12:00 PM George Van Nostrand
 5:00 PM Stephen Hickey & Connie Hickey

Monday December 17th
 8:30 AM Rosemarie Brennan
 12:00 PM Candie Holochuck

Tuesday December 18th
 8:30 AM Nellie Rooney (52nd Anniversary)
 12:00 PM James Sommero

Wednesday December 19th
 8:30 AM Rita O'Shea & Brigid Burke
 12:00 PM Brian Cahill

Thursday December 20th
 8:30 AM Michael Minischetti
 12:00 PM Francis Morison

Friday December 21st
 8:30 AM Marita Ang
 12:00 PM Dolores Uy & Uy Chun

Saturday December 22nd
 8:30 AM Joan Bedard
 12:00 PM William Walters

Sunday December 23rd
 8:30 AM Casaccio & Chocko Families
 10:00 AM Parish Mass
 12:00 PM Members of the Karkheck & Treacy Families
 5:00 PM Leo Gillespie



PRAY FOR THE SICK

Robert & Mary Tardona, Alice Coleman, Isabel Azzaro, Richard Eisenzopf, Bonnie Nisson, Rebecca Mintz, Lewis Stein, Peter Fulchiron, Diane McGinley, Graham McGinley, Mary Albert, Maureen Medina, Stan Spence, John Karkheck, Jack Fruhling, 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, SCSO Ajay James, (NSW) U.S. Navy, 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

Thomas Kelly

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

SUNDAY – December 16th
Third Sunday of Advent
 -Christmas Pageant-Parish Hall at 11:00am

MONDAY – December 17th
Late Advent Weekday
 -Confessions-Church at 4:00pm-5:30pm & 6:30pm-8:00pm
 -Scripture Study-Rectory at 7:30pm

TUESDAY - December 18th
Late Advent Weekday
 -Christmas Pageant-Parish Hall at 10:00am
 -Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm
 -Bible Study-Rectory at 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY – December 19th
Late Advent Weekday
 -Golden Age-Parish Hall at 12:30pm - All Are Welcome
 -CCD K thru 5th Gr.-Church at 3:00pm

THURSDAY – December 20th
Late Advent Weekday
 -Centering Prayer-Rectory at 2:30pm
 -CCD 6th & 7th Gr.-School at 4:00pm
 -Boy Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

FRIDAY – December 21st
Late Advent Weekday

SATURDAY – December 22nd
Late Advent 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:

Rosemarie Brennan
 by
 Christine and Arthur Lass

BREAD AND WINE

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

The Tosi and Van Nostrand Families
 by
 Mary Van Nostrand



TABERNACLE LIGHT

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

Shiela Feldman
 by
 Virginia Schimmenti



Dear Parishioners,

The third Sunday of Advent traditionally is called "Gaudete" Sunday from the Latin word, "Rejoice". On this Sunday, the clergy are permitted to wear rose colored vestments as a change from the more somber Advent colors of violet or purple. There are two Sundays each year when this happens: the other is "Laetare" Sunday in Lent. This Sunday marks the fact that we are half way through Advent and that the celebration of Christ's birth is close at hand. As a result, we rejoice. Today's readings reflect that joy.

Joy is not the same as pleasure. The latter is a momentary feeling of satisfaction that comes from something external; such as a great meal, a romantic encounter or an unexpected gift. Joy on the other hand is an inner feeling of satisfaction. Joy is almost always recognized. It is a sense of well-being that flows from the knowledge that we are important and loved by the very Master of the universe. Not only that, but that He holds us in the palm of His hand and has an eternal destiny planned for each of us. Because of that, even the terminally ill or those facing martyrdom can manifest joy. They recognize that in time all will be made good.

In our first reading today, the prophet Zephaniah urges the people to "Shout for joy, O daughter Zion (Mt. Zion was in Jerusalem and became a code word for the City), sing joyfully O Israel. Be glad and rejoice...the Lord, Your God in your midst ...and He will renew you in His love...". Zephaniah was not a fool; he lived hundreds of years before Jesus, yet he yearned for a time when "you have no further misfortune to fear."

The opening words of the second reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians (Philippi was an ancient Greek City in which Paul had founded a Church) provides the title of this Sunday: "Gaudete" - "Rejoice in the Lord, again I say rejoice". Paul faced opposition and persecution and yet he could urge the Philippians to rejoice always.

Finally we meet John the Baptist (or Baptizer) in the third reading taken from the Gospel according to St. Luke. Though unusual in his diet and vesture, John the Baptist attracted many through the dynamism of his preaching. He too yearned for one who was to come "the thongs of His sandals I am not worthy to unloose". He advised those who came to him: tax collectors, soldiers (both groups worked for the Roman occupiers), and those with some economic means, to live generously and with integrity. He compares the image of a farmer separating the chaff (the useless outer shell of the wheat kernel) from the edible kernel to the judgment the oncoming Christ will render.

As we approach Christmas the readings reflect that mood of hopeful expectation. God is coming to His people. Quite unexpectedly He will be "Emmanuel" - God with us. He will share our lives and bear our burdens so that we might have life with Him.

Advent commemorates that first coming in Bethlehem; it also reminds us of our personal encounter with God at the end of our lives here; and it points toward that unknown future when God will be all in all.

In Christ,
Monsignor John McGuirl

Christmas & New Year Schedules

Next weekend for your convenience there will be a flyer in the bulletin, containing the full schedule for Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary (New Year). Please note it carefully. This year both holidays fall on a Tuesday.

The 8:30 A.M. and 12:00 P.M. Masses on Monday, December 24th are for Monday in the fourth week of Advent!

The celebration of Christmas begins with the 4:00 P.M. Family Mass on Monday evening! "Midnight Mass" will be begin at 10:00 P.M. on December 24th so that people can arrive home at a reasonable hour. Before the "Midnight Mass" the choir will carol for about a half an hour.

Masses on Christmas Day are at 8:30 A.M.; 10:00 A.M. and 12:00 P.M. There will not be an evening Mass on Christmas Day! Christmas is a holy day of obligation!

On Monday, December 31st, the Masses at 8:30 AM. and 12:00 P.M. will be for the seventh day in the Octave of Christmas. The Celebration of the Solemnity of Mary (New Year's) will begin with a 7:30 P.M. bilingual Latin/English Vigil Mass. This Mass will be Novus Ordo (New Order or Ordinary Rite) but it will be celebrated in both English and Latin. This is the only Vigil Mass for New Year's. On January 1st, 2019 the Masses will be at 8:30 A.M., 10:00 A.M., and 12:00 P.M. There will not be an evening Mass on New Year's Day. Like Christmas, January 1st - the Solemnity of Mary - is a Holy day of obligation!

Thank you,
Monsignor McGuirl

ADVENT RECONCILIATION MONDAY

On Monday, December 17, 2018 our Diocese will join the Archdiocese of New York in celebrating Advent Reconciliation Monday. On this special day, all the parishes of our diocese will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for the great Feast of the Lord's Nativity. Here at OLM we will be offering Reconciliation on that day from 4:00pm to 5:30pm and from 6:30 to 8:00pm.

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE!!
CHRISTMAS CHURCH DÉCOR**

Many parishioners have remarked that it is so nice to see fresh flowers at weekend Masses as part of our memorial donation. We would like to add to our Christmas décor by offering the opportunity for 15 Memorials in honor of a loved one.



Each memorial will cover the expense of one fresh Christmas wreath and several poinsettias used to decorate the church. **These will remain in place for the three weeks of the Christmas season.** The cost remains \$150.00. Memorials will be published. If you would like to memorialize a loved one in this way please contact the Rectory Office at 718-268-6143. Once the Christmas Season ends, we will return to our weekly floral offerings.

'TIS THE SEASON

Our Giving Tree and ornaments are in place in the Church vestibule. This year, as in the past, we will be collecting gifts for Catholic Charities, and our own homebound parishioners. Please hang an ornament on the tree and drop off your gift for the charity noted on your ornament in the box provided in the vestibule or at the Rectory. Your thoughtfulness always makes Christmas bright

for many less fortunate than ourselves, and your generosity is greatly appreciated.

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

DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

December 19, 2018	No Activity
December 26, 2017	No Activity

FOUND!!!

If anyone lost a Valet Key for a Mercury, Please contact the Rectory at 718-268-6143.

NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL

Celebrate New Year's Eve at Our Lady of Mercy. Begin the evening with the Latin-English Mass at 7:30pm. After that, the festivities will begin in the Parish Hall, at 8:30pm with dinner, and dancing (wine and champagne are included but you may BYOB if you choose).

Admission is \$100.00 and tickets are available at the rectory.

**NEED A GIFT
FOR YOUR HOST OR HOSTESS???**

You have one more chance to get a cake and coffee or tea (or both) to bring along with you if you will be visiting family and friends at the holidays. **December 16th** after the 10AM Mass, we will be offering Grandma's Cakes and Giving Bean coffee and tea. Combine them together and make a great gift to present when you are visiting others or when you are hosting a gathering. Proceeds enable the Church to fund various projects and the 90th Anniversary plans for October 6th 2019.

**ADVENT BIBLE STUDY
BIBLE SHARING & CENTERING PRAYER**

On December 4th, 11th, & 18th at 7:30pm in the Rectory David Powell will conduct the Bible Study on the topic of *Paul, Advent, and the Second Coming*. Scripture Sharing & Centering Prayer will be conducted by Mrs. Carol Powell on the topic of *Praying with the Advent Sunday Readings & Doing Centering Prayer*. Mrs. Powell will also address the same topic at Centering Prayer on December 6th, 13th, & 20th at 2:30pm in the Rectory. Any Questions, call Mr. or Mrs. Powell at 718-261-6285

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

We know that it is early, but we like to be prepared to help Santa out! As usual, he will be making some "special deliveries" during the season to those who are homebound. So, we are asking for your help with gathering information. If you know of a neighbor or friend who is homebound and could use a little cheering up, please inform the Rectory office of their name and address. Thank you for your help!

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Gospel According to Puppets! The puppets are off celebrating Christmas with their puppet families. They will return to teach the Gospel at the Children's Liturgy during the 10 AM Mass on **Jan. 6 2019**. This age-appropriate version of the readings and Gospel is geared to toward children up to fourth grade and parents are welcome. Noisy and wiggly kids particularly welcome. **Children's Liturgy is scheduled for the following dates: 1/6,& 1/13.**

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

We always need food to re-stock the shelves. Some suggestions are: tuna fish, canned stews, hash, or Spam, Chef Boyardee, powdered or Parmalat milk, jelly, rice, canned or packaged soups, packets of pasta & rice "Sides", canned fruits, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, cookies, toothpaste, bathroom tissue, soaps, shampoos, and any other personal hygiene and non-perishable food items.

Remember! The Holidays are approaching very fast!! Think "Holiday Fixins"!!... Boxed stuffing, and mashed potatoes, or pasta, Jiffy muffin mix, coffee, tea, hot chocolate canned veggies, cranberry sauce, yams, soup, gravy, pineapple, apple sauce and juice, or monetary donations.

Community News

- **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.

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. Meetings are held 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. Remaining meetings for this year are scheduled for Dec.3 & 17.

OLMCA NEWS

Please help support our Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy by bringing in your Box Tops! Box Tops are easy to find—you may already have them around your house! Each Box Top is worth 10 cents—Bonus Box Tops can be worth even more! Please see the attached list of participating brands and products. Just clip the little Box Tops, and have your child submit them to his or her teacher. This year, you may use the collection sheets to submit Box Tops, for easier counting by the Coordinators

FEEL GREAT & LOOK GREAT

Feel and look great at our exercise class every Wednesday from **8:30 to 9:30 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.**

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 to help you be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. Please contact David or Carol Powell at 718-261-6285.

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!

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

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. **Please take advantage of the openings for Memorials that remain for 2018.**

