

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday December 22nd
 8:30 AM Joan Bedard
 5:00 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

Monday December 24th
 8:30 AM Bolivar & Robert Almeida
 12:00 PM Jean Capillo
 4:00 PM Christmas Vigil
 10:00 PM Christmas Vigil

Tuesday December 25th
 8:30 AM Christmas
 10:00AM Day
 12:00 PM Masses

Wednesday December 26th
 8:30 AM Umberto Corra
 12:00 PM George & Steven Flaucher

Thursday December 27th
 8:30 AM Louis & Pauline Pfohl
 12:00 PM Caroline, Michael, & Michael Sassi Jr.
 and Roland Pugliese

Friday December 28th
 8:30 AM Deceased Members of the Butler & Mara Families
 12:00 PM Umberto Rossi

Saturday December 29th
 8:30 AM Ernest Walter
 5:00PM Louis Tosi (Van Nostrand)

Sunday December 30th
 8:30 AM James Leddy
 10:00 AM Parish Mass
 12:00 PM Anna Sorrentino
 5:00 PM Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Codd



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

Maria Caleca

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

SUNDAY – December 23rd
Fourth Sunday of Advent

MONDAY – December 24th
Late Advent Weekday
 -All Offices & Buildings Closed

TUESDAY - December 25th
The Nativity Of The Lord
 -All Offices & Buildings Closed

WEDNESDAY – December 26th
Saint Stephen, The First Martyr

THURSDAY – December 27th
Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist
 -Centering Prayer-Rectory at 2:30pm

FRIDAY – December 28th
The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

SATURDAY – December 29th
Fifth Day Within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

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:

Marion Pardi
 by
 The Pardi Family

BREAD AND WINE

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

Joseph Catanzaro
 by
 Mary, Glenn, & Michele Van Nostrand



TABERNACLE LIGHT

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

Deceased Members of the Carlson & Smith Families
 by
 Robin Carlson



Dear Parishioners;

This is the Fourth Sunday of Advent bulletin; it is also our last bulletin before Christmas. In order to have a better appreciation of what we celebrate on Tuesday, we should take a look at today's Advent readings.

One of the "minor" prophets, Micah, speaks to us. Micah lived over six centuries before Jesus but he predicts that the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem, a small village about six miles south of Jerusalem. It had been the birthplace of King David and the tradition was that the Messiah would come from David's stock. Eight centuries after David, this prediction would be fulfilled with Jesus' birth at Bethlehem. Modern Bethlehem is a suburb of Jerusalem. Unfortunately a barrier wall now separates Bethlehem from the City. Bethlehem lies in the territory of the Palestinian Authority while Jerusalem lies in the State of Israel.

The second reading is from The Letter to the Hebrews. Once it was attributed to St. Paul but modern scholarship thinks otherwise. The author views the Messiah as the one who fulfills all the offerings and sacrifices of the Old Testament through the offering of His Body and Blood once for all. More important than any bloody sacrifice is the acceptance of God's will: "sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings you neither desired nor delighted in...as it is written of me in the scroll, behold I come to do Your will."

More familiar is the Gospel from St. Luke. Luke's Gospel has several unique features: the role of women, prayer and God's favorable disposition toward the poor and "unimportant". To the archangel, Gabriel, Mary has just declared her willingness to be God's instrument. As confusing and overwhelming as this must have been, Mary loses no time in visiting her older relative, Elizabeth. We do not know Elizabeth's age. Women in Christ's time generally married in their teens as a consequence of high mortality rates. Elizabeth and her husband, Zechariah, have been married a number of years and have not had children. She was thought to be unable to bear children. Amazingly Elizabeth too is now with child - a child, who in His adult years would be known as John the Baptist (Baptizer). Mary intends to assist Elizabeth with her late pregnancy; perhaps filling the role of mid-wife.

John, Elizabeth's son, on hearing Mary's greeting leaps in the womb. In previous centuries, the Israelites had danced before the Ark of the Covenant as it was transported to Jerusalem. King David danced fervently before the Ark as it was carried into the City. The Ark of the Covenant contained the tablets of the Law, which Moses received on Mount Sinai. The golden ark enshrined the covenant between God and His people. Now John leaps or dances in the womb before the new Ark of the Covenant, Mary. The ancient Ark was a physical manifestation of God's relationship with His people. Mary's Child will be the personification of God in human terms.

John will spend his adult year's making straight the way of the Lord. He begins that task while still in the womb. His mother Elizabeth, for her part, filled with the Holy Spirit recognizes Mary's role with the words now enshrined in the prayer, "Hail Mary": "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Mary believed in God's Word to her so much so that it took root in her and entered our human world.

In the last two days of Advent, may that same Word take root in us and be enshrined in our lives. Literally, and especially at Christmas season, we become arks of the covenant because in our words and action Jesus is again and again incarnated in our world.

A blessed final few days of Advent and a very happy Christmas to all of our parishioners and their families and friends.

Monsignor John A. McGuirl

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

BEAUTIFYING OUR CHURCH THIS SEASON



**HAVE BEEN DONATED
IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

Francis Morison
With Love & Thanks
by
Ann & Children

Delaney and Finley Families
by
Susan & Frank Finley

John Cassis
by
His Brother George Cassis

**Florence & John Romano
and
Veronica & James Mauro**
by
Frank & Amelia Romano

Jack Bernardone
by
Mary Bernardone & Family

Our Deceased Family and Friends
by
Ed & Leonor Garrity

The Speziale and Citrano Families
by
Connie & Joe Citrano

DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

December 26, 2017	No Activity	
January 02, 2019	No Activity	
January 09, 2019	Divine Mercy Cenacle	6:30pm
January 16, 2019	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament	7:00pm
	Divine Mercy Chaplet - 7:30pm	Benediction - 8:00pm
January 23, 2019	Divine Mercy Devotion	6:30pm
January 30, 2019	Divine Mercy Cenacle	6:30pm



Happy New Year

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.

**ALERT!
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.**

**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL
GIVES BACK**

Our Lady of Mercy will share in the profits. For each **donated car, truck or van, running or not**, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will give back to **our parish \$50/\$100 per vehicle**. Maybe you don't have a vehicle, but a family member, friend or neighbor has an old or neglected vehicle in their driveway that they would like to dispose of. Our Lady of Mercy Parish received several hundred dollars last year, the most recent being just last week, because of the kindness of those who contributed their old car to the St. Vincent DePaul Society. Thank you for your participation, and please continue to spread the word. Call **St. Vincent de Paul at (718)491-2525**

SAVE THE DATE

The next Blood Drive here at OLM will take place on Sunday, February 24th, 2019 from 8:45am to 2:45pm. Please mark your calendars and consider taking part in this very worthy cause.

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.

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 OLMQ rectory at 718-268-6251 if interested in attending or more info, email ymizelle@nyc.rr.com.

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.**

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 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!

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.

Fourth
Sunday
of
Advent

