

**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 8th</b>
8:30 AM	Anne M. Codd
12:00 AM	
5:00 PM	Serafina Sauro & Mary Russomanno
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 9th</b>
8:30 AM	Rajesh Israni, Jr.
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	John McAree
5:00 PM	Enzo & Maria DiGraci
<b>Monday</b>	<b>December 10th</b>
8:30 AM	Evelyne Naraci
12:00 PM	John Cassis
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 11th</b>
8:30 AM	Joseph DiCapua and BiFalco & DiCapua Families
12:00 PM	Frank Esposito
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 12th</b>
8:30 AM	James Gleeson
12:00 PM	Joan Sauro
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>December 13th</b>
8:30 AM	Mary Maguire
12:00 PM	Robert Malm
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 14th</b>
8:30 AM	Sergio & Olga Bas (Anniversary)
12:00 PM	Daniel Cahill
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 15th</b>
8:30 AM	Rose Pullano
12:00 PM	John & Anne Daly
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 16th</b>
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

**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, 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**

41st President of the United States George H.W. Bush

**THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH****SUNDAY – December 9th**

*Second Sunday of Advent*

-Children's Liturgy-10:00am Mass

**MONDAY – December 10th**

*Advent Weekday*

-Scripture Study-Rectory at 7:30pm

**TUESDAY - December 11th**

*Advent Weekday*

-Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

-Bible Study-Rectory at 7:30pm

**WEDNESDAY – December 12th**

*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

-Exercise Class-Parish Hall at 8:30am

-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 – December 13th**

*Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr*

-Centering Prayer-Rectory at 2:30pm

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

**FRIDAY – December 14th**

*Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church*

**SATURDAY – December 15th**

*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.**

**BREAD AND WINE**

Many thanks for this week's donation of Bread & Wine given in **loving memory of:**  
**Cecilia Koluch**  
by  
The DiBartolo Family

**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,

After the Resurrection and Pentecost, the apostles and their companions began preaching the Gospel, first to their own people, the Jews, and then the Gentiles. "Gentile" was an all-inclusive term, used by some in the Jewish community to designate those who were not Jews. Through the initiative of St. Paul and others outreach was soon made to the Gentiles, particularly those who spoke Greek. As of yet, there was no New Testament. In fact the earliest writings of what we now consider the New Testament were some of the letters that St. Paul addressed to Christian communities that he had founded. Normally the letters were written to clarify or correct some condition in those early communities. It is only later that Matthew, Mark, Luke and John composed the four Gospels for the Christian communities in which they lived.

So in its first years, the early Church relied on the Sacred Writings of the Jewish people (what Christians often call the "Old Testament"). They were partial to those "Books" of the Old Testament which seemed to point to the coming of the long-awaited Messiah. For that purpose, the prophet Isaiah was ideal. We will hear from him throughout the Advent season. Isaiah wrote much of his book in poetic fashion as did some of the other prophets.

However, this Sunday we hear from the prophet Baruch. Similar to Isaiah, his prophecy is not meant necessarily to be literal but rather to point to an idealized time when the reign of God would be supreme. Jerusalem is to remove her mourning clothes (Until rather recently people in mourning dressed in a particular style - usually adopting dark somewhat unfashionable clothing). The city of Jerusalem, symbolizing God's people is to dress in beautiful finery. She is to gather in her children because they are remembered by God, the Holy One. They were in exile (the Babylonian exile after the conquest of Judah by the Babylonians) but now they are brought home rejoicing. The highway will be leveled out in order to make the trip easier. Isaiah too uses this exact image. John the Baptizer (Baptist) will adopt it.

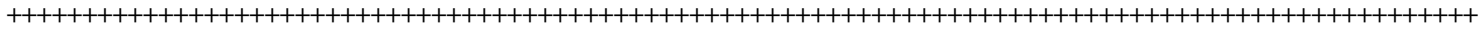
This Sunday the Gospel is taken from St. Luke. Of the four Gospel authors, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, only Matthew and Luke have "Infancy Narratives" which, from two different points of view, describe the events surrounding Jesus' birth at Bethlehem of Judea. In this citation, Luke jumps ahead to the beginnings of Jesus' ministry. He grounds his account in the historical scene. We discover Tiberius (adopted son and heir of the emperor Augustus) has been on the imperial Roman throne for fifteen years. Pontius Pilate, about whom we hear later in the Gospel, is already the Roman procurator in Jerusalem. The Romans, after the death of Herod the Great, assumed direct control in Judea and Jerusalem; however, Herod's sons were given smaller principalities in the area. We meet Herod (Antipas) tetrarch of Galilee. His brother, Philip, was tetrarch of Ituraea (near where the Herod family had originated) and Trachonitis. Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene. (A tetrarch was the ruler of a fourth of an area - these four men ruled over fourths of the former domain of Herod the Great). Annas and Caiaphas are listed as the Jewish high priests. There was only one Jewish high priest at a time but these two are linked because Caiaphas was the son-in-law of Annas.

Among these historical grandees arrives a very different character, John the Baptist. Luke presents John as a preacher of repentance in order to prepare the "way of the Lord". He describes John by using the very words that Isaiah (and Baruch) had used. John symbolically will fill the valleys, level the mountains, straighten and smooth the roads so that "all flesh shall see the salvation of God". John is getting things ready for the arrival of the long-expected One. So are we!

Advent is a season of preparation. The obvious preparations for Christmas, the cards we send and the gifts we share are limitations of the gift God has given us. The luminous decorations celebrate the eruption of the God of light into our history. But we do more than celebrate the events of two thousand years ago. The Child born in Bethlehem, Emmanuel (God with us), is present now in the Sacraments, especially in Baptism and the Eucharist. By Baptism we were identified with Him. So we live our lives, as St. Paul urged the Philippians (2nd Reading), to "increase your love ever more and more...to discern what is of value so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ Jesus..., filled with the fruit of righteousness....".

So in addition to the preparations for Jesus' birthday, we also celebrate His continual presence with us; we anticipate the termination of our lives when we meet Him face to face, and then we look ahead to the ultimate transformation of all thing when God is all in all.

In Christ,  
Monsignor McGuirl



Second Sunday of Advent Reflection

This week and next, our Gospel readings invite us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. To affirm this, Luke quotes at length from the prophet Isaiah. John baptizes for repentance and for forgiveness of sins, preparing the way for God's salvation.

In today's Gospel we also note Luke's attention to the historical detail. Luke shows that salvation is for all people and situated in world events. Therefore, Luke lists the religious leaders at the time of John's appearance in the desert. Salvation is understood as God's breaking into this political and social history.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus, we too are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives the coming of the Lord, as John did.

God Bless  
Deacon Dean

**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.

**'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 no later than December 15th. Your thoughtfulness always makes Christmas bright for many less fortunate than ourselves, and your generosity is greatly appreciated.

**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 by December 15th. Once the Christmas Season ends, we will return to our weekly floral offerings.

**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.

**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 12, 2018	Divine Mercy Cenacle	6:30pm
December 19, 2018	No Activity	
December 26, 2017	No Activity	

**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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary plans for October 6<sup>th</sup> 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

**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!

**A TIME FOR GIVING!**

Each year, we have some local families who come to us requesting our help in providing Christmas gifts for their children. We try to support these families by providing new gifts of toys and clothing for the parents to place under the tree for their children. If you know of a family that needs help or would like to "adopt" and assist one of these needy families through our "Be An Angel" program, please contact the Rectory at 718-268-6143



**CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

**The Gospel According to Puppets!** The puppets will be teaching the Gospel at the Children's Liturgy today, Dec. 9 during the 10 AM Mass and will then take a Christmas break. They will return in 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: 12/9, 1/6, & 1/13.**

**50-50 RAFFLE WINNERS**

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

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize: Carolyn Brandlein	\$225.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize: Victoria Asta	\$100.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize: Mr. & Mrs. D. F. Gaynor	\$100.00
4 <sup>th</sup> Prize: Ms. Patricia Sipos	\$35.00
5 <sup>th</sup> Prize: Eleanor Sombrero	\$35.00

**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.



- **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**

- **TODAY: ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT** at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs (Forest Hills) **Sunday, December 9th at 4PM.** Concert is performed in the church at Ascan Ave. and Queens Blvd. Featuring the OLMQ Sacred Music Society joined with the Oratorio Society of Queens and guest soloists with the Orchestral Arts Ensemble of Queens. Tickets \$35; \$10 for children 12 and under. To purchase tickets at the door, please arrive by 3PM. [ourladyqueenofmartyrs.org/annual-christmas-concert](http://ourladyqueenofmartyrs.org/annual-christmas-concert)
- **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](mailto: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

**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!

**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.**

THE SECOND SUNDAY  
IN ADVENT:

PEACE

