

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday February 16th
 8:30 AM Sister Elizabeth O'Neill, C.S.J.
 5:00 PM William Walters

Sunday February 17th
 8:30 AM Joseph Edward Waldron, Jr
 10:00 AM Parish Mass
 12:00 PM Jean Hoffman
 5:00 PM Olga Ruiz

Monday February 18th
 8:30 AM _____
 12:00 PM Zoroastro Barbosa

Tuesday February 19th
 8:30 AM Homai Gharda
 12:00 PM Ted Novick

Wednesday February 20th
 8:30 AM Mary Ruelius
 12:00 PM Kevin Seagrave

Thursday February 21st
 8:30 AM Corinne Cardillo (Birthday Remembrance)
 12:00 PM Bernadette Boyle

Friday February 22nd
 8:30 AM Louis & Pauline Pfohl
 12:00 PM Nabil Kassis

Saturday February 23rd
 8:30 AM _____
 5:00 PM Dr. John & Eileen Moschella

Sunday February 24th
 8:30 AM Margaret Rahfield
 10:00 AM Parish Mass
 12:00 PM Angelo Fasciano
 5:00 PM Vincenza Tommaso



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, Januz Miedoej, Anthony Mendola, Peggy Racanelli, Adam Martini, Joan Minischetti, Jean Striffler, Frances Galson, Irma Early, Loretta Brogna, Joseph Hennessy, Nicolina LoRusso, 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

Jose Martinez
 Jennie Adamo

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

SUNDAY – February 17th
Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time
MONDAY – February 18th
Weekday
Presidents' Day
 -All Buildings & Offices Closed
TUESDAY - February 19th
Weekday
WEDNESDAY – February 20th
Weekday
 -Exercise Class-Parish Hall at 8:30
 -Golden Age-Parish Hall at 12:30pm - **All Are Welcome**
 -Divine Mercy-Church at 7:00pm
THURSDAY – February 21st
Weekday
 -Centering Prayer-Rectory at 2:30pm
FRIDAY – February 22nd
The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle
SATURDAY – February 23rd
Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

If you are not yet registered in the Parish, please stop into the Rectory for a Census Form Mon. thru Sat. 9am-4pm.

ALTAR FLOWERS



Many thanks for this week's flower donation given in **loving memory of:**

Francis Morison
 by
 Ann and Children

BREAD AND WINE

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

Francis Morison
 by
 Ann and Children



TABERNACLE LIGHT

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

Bernadette Boyle
 by
 Ralph and Kathleen Nocera



Dear Parishioners,

The evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, view Jesus from different perspectives, based on the communities for which they were initially writing as well as the information that they had on hand. By way of example: Usually I have in class the eighth grade in Our Lady of Mercy Academy once a week. My view of each young man or woman might be in terms of their conduct and class participation. On the other hand, if they play for a sports team, their coach might see the same boy or girl in terms of their athletic ability and team cooperation. Their siblings might view them in a more competitive way, while their parents might see them as warm, dependable children. And so it goes. All of us are viewed from the perspective of those we meet or with whom we associate. It wasn't much different for Jesus.

Luke tends to see Jesus as a prophet, enunciating God's law for the benefit of those who were viewed as unimportant; for Mark, Jesus is on a rescue mission; Matthew viewed Jesus as a teacher, who came to expound God's law; John viewed Jesus as the ultimate priest, uniting heaven and earth. Jesus was all of those things but each Gospel emphasized some aspect of His ministry. Today's Gospel is from St. Luke and Jesus' prophetic role is on full display: He comes from God to teach us true discernment of the good. This involves reversing normal expectations. In Jesus' culture as in our own, many assume that wealth, prosperity, happiness and social advancement are signs of success. For the more religious those attributes might be viewed as blessings from God. They were certainly viewed so in the Judaism of Jesus' time. The Beatitudes reverse the usual standards. The Beatitudes and their contrasting "woes" have a special Biblical meaning. To be "blessed" implies a right relationship with God. The "woes" imply a wrong relationship with God.

The Beatitudes and their corresponding "woes" remind us that God uses very different set of standards. The usual expectations are overturned. So it is the rich who might have a problem: How was their wealth attained? How are they using that wealth? Who grew your food? How are those workers paid and treated? Who brings that food to you and who prepares it? Do those people eat as well as those they serve? If you are laughing now, is God amused by the same things? If you have fame now - be reminded of how fleeting, it is? An object lesson of this is to ask anyone a generation or two younger than you what they knew of some famous political or entertainment figure from your time. The answer often is that they never heard of that person! There is a Latin phrase that describes this: "Sic transit gloria mundi." - "Thus passes the glory of the world."

In the first reading this weekend, the prophet Jeremiah, many centuries before Jesus, is warning the political and religious leaders of his time not to depend on alliances with other stronger states because to trust in human beings courts disaster. The person who does so will be like a barren, forsaken desert. On the other hand, the one who trusts in the Lord is compared to a tree planted near running streams. Despite droughts or extreme heat, that tree "shows no distress". Luke presents Jesus in a similar mantle and in Him that prophetic tradition reaches fulfillment. He is the very word of God enfleshed in our midst.

To trust in God is to believe that God will work things for the best. That may not necessarily be in this world. Jesus' resurrection proclaims that darkness and sin do not get the last word but that they are overcome in a fulfillment, a perfection of life in God's Presence. This is St. Paul's message, in the second reading, written to the Corinthian church that he had founded. Some people were already denying the reality of the Resurrection and Paul is none too subtle when he bluntly tells them: "If Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how can some among you say there is no Resurrection of the dead? If the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is in vain...then those who have fallen asleep (died) in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pitiable people of all. But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep." Entering that life of the Resurrection does involve a judgment on our lives here (St. Matthew 25: 31-46) particularly in terms of our service to those in need.

Perhaps one of our modern difficulties is a weakening of faith in a life beyond this one. It is disturbing to hear even good Christians make remarks like: "Oh, how good it is that a friend or relative is still alive especially when you consider the alternative". The implication is that the alternative is obliteration. That idea flies in the face of our basic Christian faith. We may face death with some fear of the unknown: however, Christian faith is that the "alternative" to life here is not obliteration but rather the full blossoming of life in God's Presence. Not to accept this means a denial of Christian faith at its very roots.

Some of the problems in our Church and in civil society may be rooted in just such a denial. Do we believe what Jesus proclaimed in the Beatitudes? Do we believe that there is a judgment on what we do or don't do in our lives here? Do we believe that those, who have tried their best to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, may share His Cross but also His Resurrection? Negative answers may mean that we have a problem that goes very deep - a loss of Resurrection faith, making us as Paul said: "the most pitiable of people."

In Christ,
Monsignor McGuirl

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.

**OLM BLOOD DRIVE****DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE BLEEDING TO GIVE BLOOD**

There is no substitute for human blood. One in three people will need blood sometime during their lives. One donation can help save three lives.

Donate blood now....people can't live without it

Our Lady of Mercy Blood Drive - Sunday February 24th, 8:45 am to 2:45 pm in the Parish Hall To schedule an appointment or for more information, call the Rectory at (718) 268-6143

Walk-ins are also welcome and please feel free to bring a friend

Please come and donate the gift of life!

OLM MINISTRIES

It takes a village...no, not a village, but Parish members, to make our community vibrant, inclusive, and successful. There is a place for you to make a significant contribution. We know that there is a fit between your talents and parish needs. Do come to the Ministries Fair on Saturday and Sunday, March 9th & 10th. After each Mass, (5:00pm mass on 3/9 & all Masses on 3/10), members of all the OLM ministries will be in the Parish Hall to describe what they do and how you can help. We will be serving refreshments. It does not take long. Just come downstairs, walk around, see what appeals to you and sign up. All are welcomed.

DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

February 20, 2019	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	7:00pm
	Divine Mercy Chaplet-7:30pm	Benediction-8:00pm
February 27, 2019	Divine Mercy Devotion	6:30pm

CHOIR NEWS

Our choir welcomes everyone, (Adult and Youth from 7th Gr. Up). You do not need to be able to read music and there are no formal auditions. 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. 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.

**THIRD ANNUAL ST. PATRICK AND ST. JOSEPH FEAST DAY PARTY**

SAT. MARCH 16, 2019, 6-10 PM,



Drink, dine and dance to celebrate two great Saints for \$50 per person, right after the Saturday 5 PM Mass. Wine and Monsignor McGuirl's famous Irish Soda bread included. Advance tickets required. General seating with 10 per table. Reserved table under one name for parties of 10 only with payment. Check or cash to Rectory by **Sunday, 3/10/18**. See posters for additional info or call/email Rectory at 718-268-6143/office@mercyhills.org

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Gospel According to Puppets! The puppets will teach the Gospel at the Children's Liturgy during the 10 AM Mass. This age-appropriate version of the readings and Gospel is geared 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: 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31.

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, paper towels, bathroom tissue, soaps, shampoos, and any other personal hygiene and non-perishable food items.

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

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.

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 always Monday evenings 7-9 p.m. in the rectory. Scheduled meeting dates are Mar. 4 & 18. If interested in attending, please call the rectory or for questions, please email the group's facilitator, Commissioned Lay Pastoral Leader Yorke Mizelle, at ymizelle@nyc.rr.com.
- **FREE Spanish Classes.** Saturdays at 3 p.m. at Resurrection Ascension Church (85-25 61 Rd, Rego Park). Call the RA rectory: 718-424-5212.
- **Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish**, has invited all parishes for a **listening session concerning the sexual abuse crisis in our Church.** The session will be on Tuesday, February 19th, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs' Academy Auditorium. The session will give us an opportunity to learn about and discuss this issue, hear what the Church has done and is doing for survivors of sexual abuse, and learn about what the Church has been doing to keep our children and youth safe. Two representatives from the Diocese of Brooklyn will join us to help: Jasmine Salazar, LMSW Assistance Coordinator for Victims' Ministry and Mary Ellen Quinn, Coordinator of the Office of Safe Environment. Kindly enter the auditorium by the parking lot doors (the parking lot entrance is on 72nd Road between Austin Street and Queens Boulevard)
- **Helpers of God's Precious Infants** at the All Women's

Community News

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.

- **Pray for me, Diocese of Brooklyn** is a new initiative where you can submit your prayer requests and pray for each others' intentions, in partnership with the Sister Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara in Borough Park, Brooklyn. To submit your prayer requests, go to www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/prayforme.
- **FREE Screenings** at St. John's University Speech and Hearing Center (152-11 Union Turnpike, Flushing). The center will also offer hearing aid help from February 4 to May 6 as a free service. Please call 718-990-6480 to schedule an appointment.
- **Parkside Players** will present *It's Only A Play*, by Terrence McNally, at Grace Lutheran Church (103-15 Union Tnpk., Forest Hills). Performances will be from 2/16 thru 3/2. For more info call 718-353-7388/516-520-9474 or see [//parksideplayers.com](http://parksideplayers.com).
- **"Doorways to Prayer"**, a day of reflection for young women seeking to deepen their faith and discern God's call, will be sponsored by the Daughters of Wisdom (an International congregation of Sisters serving in twenty countries). It will take place on March 2nd, from 10:00am to 4:00pm, at the Montfort Mission House (101-18 104th St., Ozone Park). For info or to register, call Sr. Bernadette Sassone, DW at 631-470-4896 Or cell 347-567-3997

WEEKLY OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please remember to **mark the amount of your offering on the front of the envelope.** Since the envelopes are used to **record your offering** after the donation is removed, **it is necessary that the amount be written on the front** Thank you

CONGRATULATIONS

We have been notified that the following parishioner (previous OLM students) have earned Honor Roll status for the Second marking period of the current school year:

At St. Francis Preparatory School: Isabella Cognata, John Fischer, Jordan Sihaga, & Mark Sulewski.

At Holy Cross High School: Justin Montalvo.

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!

ASSOCIATED VINCENTIAN CHARITIES OF BROOKLYN GIVES BACK

Our Lady of Mercy will share in the profits. For each **donated car, truck or van, running or not**, The Associated Vincentian Charities will give back to **our parish \$75/\$200 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. Thank you for your participation, and please continue to spread the word. Call **(718) 491-2525** or svdpauto-brooklynqueens.org

50-50 RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the January, 2019 Winners of the 50-50 Raffle:

1 st Prize: Joan Davis	\$338.00
2 nd Prize: Mary Ellen & James Freeley	\$169.00
3 rd Prize: The Abikaram Family	\$169.00
4 th Prize: The McCabe Family	\$85.00
5 th Prize: Geraldo E Maldonado	\$85.00

Faith
in GOD
changes
everything