

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday February 25th
 8:30 AM Lily Bochonko
 12:00 PM Luisa Barquin

Tuesday February 26th
 8:30 AM
 12:00 PM Michael & Caroline Sassi, Michael Sassi Jr. and Roland Pugliese

Wednesday February 27th
 8:30 AM Indira Richards (Living Intention-Birthday)
 12:00 PM Fred Sorrentino

Thursday February 28th
 8:30 AM Arnold Davis
 12:00 PM Kathleen Minihan

Friday March 1st
 8:30 AM Eleanor & James Mara
 12:00 PM Rose & Ralph Illuminato

Saturday March 2nd
 8:30 AM Rafael Perez
 5:00 PM Peter Cantalupo

Sunday March 3rd
 8:30 AM Joseph Kostolansky
 10:00 AM Parish Mass
 12:00 PM Florence Simko
 5:00 PM Sally Conlon



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, Michael Simon, Sr. Pat Jamison, CND, 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

NYPD Det. Brian Simonsen
 Hector Gonzalo Culajay Juarez
 Jean Striffler
 Rose Ferrari
 Msgr. Daniel S. Hamilton

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

SUNDAY – February 24th
Seventh Sunday In Ordinary Time
 -Blood Drive-Parish Hall from 8:45am to 2:45pm

MONDAY – February 25th
Weekday
 -Scripture Study-Rectory at 7:30pm

TUESDAY - February 26th
Weekday
 -Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY – February 27th
Weekday
 -Exercise Class-Parish Hall at 8:30
 -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 – February 28th
Weekday
 -Centering Prayer-Rectory at 2:30pm
 -CCD 6th & 7th Gr.-School at 4:00pm

FRIDAY – March 1st
Weekday
 -Girl Scouts-Parish Hall at 4:00pm & 6:00pm

SATURDAY – March 2nd
Weekday
 -Masquerade Ball-Parish Hall at 8:00pm

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:**
Richard & Regina Gunaratna
And Brother Mario
 by
 Indira Richards

BREAD AND WINE

Many thanks for this week's donation of Bread & Wine given in **loving memory of:**
Arnold Davis
(1st Anniversary)
 by
 OLMCA Board of Directors



TABERNACLE LIGHT

Many thanks for this week's donation of the Tabernacle Light given in **loving memory of:**
Arnold Davis
(1st Anniversary)
 by
 OLMCA Board of Directors



Dear Parishioners,

The challenge of today's Gospel is one of the most difficult for any follower of Christ - the demand for forgiveness. And then beyond forgiveness, doing kindnesses to others from whom we expect no return or seem unworthy of our consideration. Not easy!

Perhaps the first reading can help us here. For multiple reasons, David and his patron, the first king of Israel, Saul, have fallen out of friendship. Saul actually seeks David's life. In the episode recounted in the first reading (1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 22-23), Saul accompanied by his bodyguards are in hot pursuit of David but at night seek shelter in a cave. Unimpeded David and his friend, Abishei, enter the king's camp. Abishei urges David to kill the king but David refuses to kill "the Lord's anointed". However, David does take some of Saul's possessions in order to indicate that he had the opportunity to eliminate the king but declined to kill him. In the culture of the time, David would have been justified in killing the king before the king succeeded in killing him. David, in this extravagant and completely unexpected act of forgiveness, imitates the Lord God, "Who is kind and merciful" (Psalm 103).

Indirectly forgiveness is also the theme of the second reading, which again this week comes from Paul's letter to the Christian community, which he had founded at the Greek city of Corinth. Paul writes that by birth we resemble the first parents. Like them we are made in God's image and likeness, but we also carry the original fault line (original sin). By Baptism however we are identified with Christ. Indeed we may have to carry our crosses but we are imprinted with Christ and thus share in His resurrection. We are not "merely human" but men and women called by God to share His life. As such we are called to imitate Him, Whose sun shines on the good and the bad, Whose rain falls on the worthy and the unworthy. That God shows mercy and restraint to those who seem unworthy is hard for us to comprehend.

The call of the Christian is to do what seems unreasonable. It might be worthwhile to mention that forgiveness is not forgetfulness. People might be inclined to say that: "I can never forget what so and so said or did to me..." Perhaps not, for we do not have the mental capacity to forget, even when we might like to do so. It would be great if we could just reach into our brains and remove the cells that hold unpleasant memories. With the present level of science we cannot do that nor does forgiveness require us to do so. After all, by His very nature, God cannot forget anything but He does forgive. Forgive means to push the offense out of the way and if possible get on with the fractured relationship. That's what God does. Interestingly, if we make the will act to forgive, often enough the memory of the offense decreases in strength. We may never completely forget but the memory no longer has power over us. We are enabled to move forward and not have the memory rob us of energy.

The reward for all this (a reward not always attained in this world) is: "Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure packed together, shaken down and overflowing will be poured into your lap." In ancient times a folded apron was often used to carry loose material. If the person was seated, then that apron would rest on their lap. If the material is shaken down (like cornflakes in a box), there is more room. So the apron is not merely filled but filled to overwhelming capacity. "The measure we measure with will be measured back to us."

In St. Luke's Gospel, one of the final utterances of Jesus on the cross is: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do". Accompanying this was His guarantee of forgiveness to the repentant thief: "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with Me in paradise."

In Christ,
Msgr. McGuirl

A week ago Friday the Diocese of Brooklyn released a list with the names of about 100 priests over a long period who had credible allegations of sexual abuse made against them. The list is on the Diocesan website. In the announcements last week the Diocesan website was given; nonetheless, for those who might not have remembered it, it is: <https://dioceseofbrooklyn.org>.

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.



Today, Sunday February 24th, Our Lady of Mercy is sponsoring the New York Blood Center's Blood Drive from 8:45 AM to 2:45 PM in the Parish Hall.

The Blood Center supplies the hospitals throughout the five boroughs as well as parts of Nassau and Suffolk counties. On average 250 units of blood are transfused each day. Approximately every 3 seconds a person in need is receiving a transfusion. The Center's need to maintain optimum inventories remains constant.

Please bring your donor ID card or donor number and a photo ID with you. Walk-ins are welcome, appointments are not essential.

Volunteers are also needed throughout the day to assist the donors. If you could offer an hour or two of your time please do so. Literature is available in the vestibule of the church for your review.

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 27, 2019	Divine Mercy Devotion	6:30pm
March 6, 2019	NO ACTIVITY	
March 13, 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** (110-06 Queens Blvd., Forest Hills) will be hosting the 8th Annual Taste of the World Food Festival on Sunday, March 10 from 2:30PM to 5PM. The event will be held in McLaughlin Hall (the auditorium in the adjacent school building; entrance at back of parking lot on 72nd Rd off Austin St. The cost will be 25 in advance, \$30 at the door the day of the event. Admission price includes samplings of foods and desserts from popular restaurants in Forest Hills and the neighboring communities. To purchase event tickets, call the OLMQ rectory (718-268-6251) during business hours (9-8 M-Th, 9-5 F, 10-2 Sat).

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.
- **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
- The 112th Precinct Community Council has rescheduled their meeting to 2/27/2019, at Dee's (107-23 Metropolitan Ave.)
- Free community lecture for veterans and their families, presented by Northwell Health, will be offered at American Legion Post 1424 (107-15 Metropolitan Ave.) on 2/28/2019 at 6:30pm. Learn effective strategies to manage arthritis with exercise, relaxation, & joint conservation, and learn about lung cancer screening & whether or not you are eligible. For more info, contact Merav deGuzman at 917-617-5916.

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

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

Faith
in GOD
changes
everything