

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	March 9th
8:30 AM	Deceased Members of the Sommero Family
5:00 PM	William Walters
Sunday	March 10th
8:30 AM	Joseph DiCapua & DiCapua & BiFalco Families
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Jack Bernardone
5:00 PM	George Van Nostrand, Sr.
Monday	March 11th
8:30 AM	Madeline Wales & Martin Hess (Anniversary in Heaven)
12:00 PM	Giuseppe Angotti
Tuesday	March 12th
8:30 AM	Soli Gharda
12:00 PM	Fernando Tolentino
Wednesday	March 13th
8:30 AM	Maria Wasiluk
12:00 PM	Arthur Savarese (2nd Anniversary in Heaven)
Thursday	March 14th
8:30 AM	Francisco Fong
12:00 PM	Clemansa Ardelean
Friday	March 15th
8:30 AM	Deceased Members of the Szabados Family
12:00 PM	
Saturday	March 16th
8:30 AM	Ellen Ranieri
5:00 PM	Alma Ferrato
Sunday	March 17th
8:30 AM	Nellie & Maurice Rooney
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Grace Aumuller
5:00 PM	Luis & Remedios Del Mundo

**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, Frances Galson, Irma Early, Loretta Brogna, Joseph Hennessy, Nicolina LoRusso, Michael Simo, Sr. Pat Jamison, CND, Carol Flaherty, 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

Lawren Seton-Haris Saver

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – March 10th***First Sunday of Lent*

-Children's Liturgy-10:00am Mass

MONDAY – March 11th*Lenten Weekday*

-F.H. Civic Association Meeting-Parish Hall at 7:30pm

-Scripture Study-Rectory at 7:30pm

TUESDAY - March 12th*Lenten Weekday*

-Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY – March 13th*Lenten Weekday*

-Exercise Class-NO CLASS

-Golden Age-Parish Hall at 12:30pm - **All Are Welcome**

-CCD K thru 5th Gr.-Church at 3:00pm

THURSDAY – March 14th*Lenten Weekday*

-Centering Prayer-Rectory at 2:30pm

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

-Boy Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

-Baptism Meeting-Rectory at 7:30pm

FRIDAY – March 15th*Lenten Weekday*

-Girl Scouts-Parish Hall at 4:00pm

SATURDAY – March 16th*Lenten Weekday*

-Baptism-Church at 1:00pm

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:

William Walters

by

Aine, Ted, & Mary

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.

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

Dear Parishioners,

In the last week, on Ash Wednesday, we celebrated the beginning of Lent. Many of us received blessed ashes upon our foreheads in the shape of cross. Oddly the readings on both Ash Wednesday and this first Sunday of Lent seems to discourage such types of actions "so that others may see them".

What Lent calls for is repentance or conversion, which is an internal matter of the mind and heart. The reception of ashes can be justified in the same way that a wedding ring can be justified. The wedding ring is a continuous band encircling usually the fourth finger of the left hand of the bride or groom. If that ring is lost or destroyed does the wedding end? Certainly not! The ring is a reminder especially to its owner that his or her life now encircles the partner. The ring commits its owner to place the needs of the other above their own. The ring also reminds onlookers that the wearer is married and is no longer available.

The ashes have a similar purpose. They are produced by burning the excess palms from last Palm Sunday. They remind us that not only do we follow Christ in joyous procession (like on the first Palm Sunday) but also in the "ash" moments of life (like Good Friday). The ash is applied in the form of a small cross. Again ashes are reminders that Christ is to mark our minds and hearts. What will announce our discipleship is not a smudge of ash applied once a year but rather good words and actions throughout the entire year.

Ashes do seem to have a strong hold on the religious imagination of many people. That hold may be on a subliminal level. Even people who rarely, if ever, darken the doors of a church, desire to have ashes. Why? Perhaps fundamentally they remind us that we are ashes. We are made from the same basic elements as everything else. When we die, our bodies revert to their primordial elements, whether through burial in the ground or through the accelerated process of cremation. One way or the other "we are dust and unto dust we shall return!".

Yet this human dust has an eternal destiny. We are called by God through Christ to share the fullness of life. This world is important in the same way that roots are important to a tree; nonetheless, we do not have a permanent place here. In time the elements of our bodies will be incorporated into other animals and plants. In fact, some of the atoms and molecules in our bodies might have belonged to other humans or animals. But in the Resurrection which we celebrate on Easter, God brings forth a new creation, spiritual and physical. We may not have the exactly same atoms which we possessed in this life - after all they are assumed into other beings or the earth itself. Even throughout life, we constantly renew our bodies as the dead cells are cast off. There will be a new creation and how God achieves that is known to Him alone. In Christ, we have the first fruits - His Resurrection is the sign of what can be expected by those who follow Him. His resurrection is a surety to those whose minds, hearts and actions are marked by Christ.

Our reception of ashes or our use of other material objects in worship should point our minds and hearts to a greater reality. Often this is called "the Catholic sense" - the sense that God can be perceived in His Creation. Ashes point toward a greater, transcendent reality - life with God. This dust, you and me, have a divine destiny.

We celebrate that destiny as we begin Lent. We recognize our "earthiness". Our fasting and abstinence are calculated to remind us of that our lives are not completely anchored in this world. Our fasting and abstaining also remind us that most humans do not enjoy the meals that we take for granted. Even our poorest citizens are wealthy compared to much of the rest of the world. Our almsgiving (works of charity) are in obedience to the fundamental law given by Christ: to love God and our neighbors as ourselves. Charitable response to various appeals permits us to reach people whom we might not otherwise be able to reach. By extending our support to the poor, disabled, homeless or hospitalized, we are doing as Christ commanded His disciples.

Lent should be a time of reflection and of an increased awareness of the demand to be marked by Christ. Those ashes can be that reminder.

In Christ,
 Monsignor McGuirl

Lenten Notes: Stations of the Cross will be celebrated after the 8:30 A.M. Mass on all the Fridays of Lent. In past years we also celebrated the Stations at 7:30 P.M. on Lenten Fridays but no more than a handful of people attended. Attendance was much greater in the morning.

All the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence and Good Friday is a day of both fast and abstinence

BLOOD DRIVE FOLLOWUP

In last week's bulletin, Mr. Mike Mangino wrote the "thank you" article for the volunteers and donors. Modestly he did not include himself though he was crucial in the organization and implementation of the Blood Drive. So belatedly - "thank you, Mike".
Msgr. McGuirl

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

March 13, 2019	Divine Mercy Devotion	6:30pm
March 20, 2019	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament	7:00pm
	Divine Mercy Chaplet	7:30pm
	Benediction	8:00pm
March 27, 2019	Divine Mercy Cenacle	6:30pm

EASTER FLOWERS

As we did at Christmas, we are providing an opportunity for families to memorialize a loved one by making a donation of \$150.00 for Easter flowers. Names of all those memorialized will be published in our Bulletin, and flowers will remain on the altar and in Church for at least 3 weeks. Each donation will help us provide flowering plants for our altar and church decor. Help make this Easter magnificent!

Arrangements can be made by contacting the Rectory Office at 718-268-6143.

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.

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 3/17, 3/24, 3/31.

OLM JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE

You are invited to join in our 90th Jubilee Pilgrimage to the Holy Land which will take place February 1st thru the 9th, 2020. This journey, following the footsteps of Jesus, should greatly influence the way you read the Bible, the way you live, and the way you understand the Church. Detailed fliers are available at all church entrances.

**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

LENTEN SOUP LUNCHEON

Our Lenten "Soup Luncheon" will be held on Sunday, March 24, 2019 at 1:00pm in the Parish Hall. Together we share a simple meal and express our care for our needier brothers and sisters. This year's guest speaker will be from the Little Sisters of the Poor. The Little Sisters of the Poor are an international congregation of Roman Catholic women religious founded in 1839 by Saint Jeanne Jugan. Together with a diverse network of collaborators, they serve the elderly poor in over 30 countries around the world. Continuing the work of Saint Jeanne Jugan, their **MISSION** is to offer the neediest elderly of every race and religion a home where they will be welcomed as Christ, cared for as family and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to Himself. Proceeds from the Soup Luncheon will benefit these ministries. Through our simple sharing of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we can make Soup Luncheon 2019 a living witness to our care for the larger world. A flyer/sign-up sheet will be available in the bulletin next week, which will have a deadline date for response.

HEART TO HEART MINISTRY

For many years, Sister Ave Clark, O.P. has run *The Heart to Heart Ministry* in our Diocese. Sister offers various opportunities for parish retreats, days of recollection, and evenings or afternoons of reflection. Recently her address has changed. If you would like to obtain a copy of Sister's Spring...Summer Brochure...2019, please contact her at:

Sister Ave Clark, O.P.
Heart to Heart Ministry
48-60 Oceania Street
Bayside, NY, 11364.

Sister's telephone number is: 718-428-2471.
Her Email is: Pearlbud7@aol.com and her Website is: anextratablespoonoflove.blogspot.com

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.
- **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).
- There will be an **Anointing of the Sick Mass at Our Lady of Hope** in Middle Village on March 23rd at 1:00pm. After the Mass, the Senior Goal Group of OLH will provide some light refreshments in the cafeteria.

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.
- **Maggie's Little Theater at St. Margaret Parish Hall** in Middle Village will present the Broadway comedy "Noises Off" beginning on March 16th. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and children under 12. For more info and to reserve tickets visit www.maggieslittletheater.org or call 917-579-5389.
- Join the St. John's University Italian Cultural Center at this year's celebration of *La Festa di San Giuseppe* (St. Joseph's Day) on Sunday, March 10th. A special Italian Mass will take place at 1:30pm in St. Thomas More Church, followed by a reception at 2:30 pm in the D'Angelo Center featuring a traditional St. Joseph's day meal and entertainment by renowned tenor Elio Scaccio <http://www.elioscaccio.com/>. Reservations are \$45, register today: calling us at 718-990-5892 or email at communityrelations@stjohns.edu

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.

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

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.**

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

The
Season
of
Lent

