

MASS INTENTIONS

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| Saturday | March 30th |
| 8:30 AM | Claire Scott |
| 5:00 PM | Tonino Tollis |
| Sunday | March 31st |
| 8:30 AM | Jean Striffler |
| 10:00 AM | Parish Mass |
| 12:00 PM | Jack Bernardone |
| 5:00 PM | Giovanna Bambina |
| Monday | April 1st |
| 8:30 AM | Severine Reinertsen |
| 12:00 PM | Elizandra Barbosa |
| Tuesday | April 2nd |
| 8:30 AM | _____ |
| 12:00 PM | Carol Pusano & Dorothy Holland |
| Wednesday | April 3rd |
| 8:30 AM | Larry Pugh |
| 12:00 PM | Jean Striffler |
| Thursday | April 4th |
| 8:30 AM | Henri-Robert Lamarque |
| 12:00 PM | Kazimeirz & Leokadia Sulewski |
| Friday | April 5th |
| 8:30 AM | Butler/Mara Families |
| 12:00 PM | _____ |
| Saturday | April 6th |
| 8:30 AM | Theo Yap Amaya |
| 5:00 PM | John Daly |
| Sunday | April 7th |
| 8:30 AM | Raymond Cleary |
| 10:00 AM | Parish Mass |
| 12:00 PM | Ervin Dudas |
| 5:00 PM | Mara/Brady Families |

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Robert & Mary Tardona, Alice Coleman, Isabel Azzaro, Richard Eisenzopf, Bonnie Nisson, Rebecca Mintz, Lewis Stein, Peter Fulchiron, Diane 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, James McWalters, Ann Dauria, Carol McDonald, and for **all of our parishioners who are currently hospitalized or homebound.**

**PRAY FOR THE ARMED SERVICES**

Major 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

Graham McGinley

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – March 31st***Fourth Sunday of Lent*

-Children's Liturgy-10:00am Mass

-OLMCA Talent show-Parish Hall at 1:30pm

MONDAY – April 1st*Lenten Weekday*

-Scripture Study-Rectory at 7:30pm

TUESDAY - April 2nd*Lenten Weekday*

-Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY – April 3rd*Lenten 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 – April 4th*Lenten Weekday*

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

-Boy Scouts-School at 7:00pm

OLMCA Sports Night-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

FRIDAY – April 5th*Lenten Weekday*

-Stations of The Cross-Church at 9:00am

SATURDAY – April 6th*Lenten 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 Thanksgiving

by

Mark, Celia, Nicole, & Dylan Kelly

**BAPTISMS**

We welcome into our faith community all those who were baptized between January and March, 2019:

John George Marchetti Worth
Isabella Mia Ventura
Alessia Harley Ventura
Izafta Mikaelle Villagomez Luna
Brody Graysom Nichols
Abigail Anne Gallagher
Eamon Patrick Sheehy
Christopher Joseph Dorry

Dear Parishioners;

Today's Gospel features the well-known parable of the Prodigal Son, which might as well as be entitled the "loving father". The general outline of the parable is familiar to anyone with even a slight knowledge of Biblical literature. Jesus tells this parable quite deliberately. His preaching has attracted the marginalized and the "public sinners". They recognized in Jesus the compassion and forgiveness of God. Meantime those who thought themselves righteous, the Pharisees and the scribes who interpreted the Law, criticized Jesus for sharing meals with these public sinners. Tax collectors were labeled public sinners because they worked either directly for the Roman occupation forces or for the minor Herodian princes, who were clients of Rome. The "public sinners" probably included the large number of people who could not keep all the rules and regulations, which had evolved over the centuries from the initial Commandments given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai. It is in the face of criticisms from the Scribes and Pharisees that Jesus narrates the parable.

In the story the younger of two sons decides to take his leave of the home he shares with his father and older brother. He wants to leave home but with the inheritance he hopes to receive eventually on the death of his father. He requests the inheritance from his father, which is as good as saying: "when you die, I expect this inheritance but since you have yet to die, I want it now!" Another father might be outraged by the insensitivity of his son; yet, this father acquiesces.

Typically "easy come, easy go", the boy leads a dissipated life and runs through his inheritance in no time. In the face of a famine in his new country, the son must take a job as a swineherd - the very lowest occupation conceivable in pious Jewish circles. Pigs or their meat were (and are) proscribed by the Kosher dietary laws. To care for pigs or to eat their meat was to place oneself outside the Law. The son finally wakes up, realizing that his father's servants are in a better place than he is. With excuses ready, he heads home.

At a distance, his father sees him coming and runs to meet him - something inconceivable in an honor driven society. The family patriarch would never stoop to run to his son; the son would be expected to do the running. Brooking no explanations, the father orders new clothes (symbols of the new life that the son "puts on") and holds a major celebration for his son. The older brother, returning from his work in the fields, is infuriated to find that his father is celebrating the return of his wayward brother. He will not attend the celebration despite his father's pleas. The older son complains that he has always obeyed his father and done what was asked and expected of him and yet there have been no celebrations for his constant loyalty and fidelity.

In some of the most touching lines of the New Testament, the father speaks emotionally to his older son: "My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found." (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32)

In the face of the disapproval of the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus, through this parable is making an unmistakable affirmation of God's desire to welcome us back into His family, no matter what we may have done. Of course, the father in the story stands for God our Father, and all of us have been in each of the other roles. Sometimes we may have been the judgmental and unforgiving older brother; other times we may have been the prodigal child, who has run away from the loving Father's house. In either case God wishes us to be "with Me always (so that) everything I have is yours." This is not "cheap grace", it requires a change - the son is determined to return home. Hopefully the older son (through we do not know from the story) broadens his thinking and rejoices to have his brothers home to share life with him and his father. A change is necessary.

In such a way we will "taste and see the goodness of the Lord." (Psalm 34)
Monsignor McGuirl

Annual Catholic Appeal

This Sunday is the In-Pew Phase of the Annual Catholic Appeal. It binds the one and half million Catholics of our Brooklyn (and Queens) Diocese into one family. We may live in the 186 parishes of our Diocese but we are one family.

Our Bishop hopes to raise \$8,000,000 dollars to be distributed in the following manner: \$2,700, 000 for assistance to our Catholic Academies and Faith Formation Programs, especially for children in non-Catholics schools and also for those interested in entering our Faith Community; \$2,500,000 will be earmarked for support of the Diocesan Vocation Office (your writer once held the position of Director of Vocations - 1978-1983) and for scholarships for our major seminarians, who must study for an additional four or five years after college graduation; \$2,100,000 will be utilized to assist the vast network of Catholic Charities and the Catholic Migration Office and the final \$700,000 will support our chaplains in hospitals, prisons, and colleges.

The Diocese has placed our goal as \$77,254.00. This is lower than in previous years. Except for one year, we have always exceeded our goal. One motivation for exceeding the goal is that the amount over goal is returned to the parish.

Our parish has benefitted greatly by both *The Generations in Faith Campaign* and *The Annual Catholic Appeals*. The repair and replacement of the front steps of the Church and the safety alterations made on the Church hall stairs were made possible by these Campaigns. The new furnishings in the Church Hall as well as many important but less glamorous bills have been met through these Campaigns.

Ahead are several major projects. Some of these have been delayed but we can no longer do so. The windows of our Academy building are in bad need of repair and paint or else total replacement. In 1965, they were elegant but like any wooden windows, exposed constantly to sun, rain, sleet, snow and bus fumes, they are reaching the end of their run. You may remember that last summer, the air conditioners failed in the Church several times - usually on weekends when they were most needed. The systems are old and in need of refurbishing.

Continue-

With every passing day, the sidewalks grow more unsightly and treacherous. The City-owned trees are pushing up the sidewalk flags. Unfortunately without the concurrence of both the NYC Parks Department and the Department of Transportation we cannot alter the trees. Because of the expense involved, we have had to bring Rocklyn Assets Corp. (the Diocesan Corporation responsible for building infrastructures repairs) into the picture. Pastors are limited to spending \$30,000 without their approval. The process in is in motion but it is slow going.

For all of these reasons and more, your help is needed. Everyone's circumstances are different. What your neighbor can do may be impossible for you to do. But Lent is a season of giving and so again this year, I ask each parishioner and those who worship with us to do their best. There is an envelope in each bulletin. Please use it. By helping the Diocese, you are helping your parish, which is our spiritual home. Use the *Annual Catholic Appeal* envelope if you have not yet made a contribution. Many families were contacted by mail but if you were not, please prayerfully consider the ACA envelope. The bishop assures us that these contributions cannot be used in any way but the areas outlined above.

Yours in Christ,
Monsignor John A. McGuirl

Fire Recovery

Early last week there was second story fire on Metropolitan Avenue. The Fire was in the residential apartments above Metro Garden Realtors (Between Nick's Bistro and Edible Arrangements.) The Dave & Diane Barton Breuer Family was burnt out and lost everything though thankfully no one was hurt. If you wish to assist them, please contact GOFUNDMe.com at: <https://www.gofundme.com/the-bartonbreuer-fire-recovery>. If you wish to offer further assistance, please contact JP Freeley at jpf321@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE

It's not too early to make note in your calendars of an important date coming up, **October 6th, 2019**. On that day, we at Our Lady of Mercy will kick off our 90th Anniversary Year. The day will begin with the celebration of a Solemn Anniversary Mass at 12:00pm, at which Bishop DiMarzio will be in attendance, and later there will be a Gala Dinner Dance, at the Immaculate Conception Center to officially begin our 90th Anniversary Year of festivities. Watch the bulletin for more information as the planning continues, but make sure to **save that date**.

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

RCIA

Please pray for Sonam Namgay and Xu Su Nu who will be Baptized at the Easter Vigil. They were presented to the parish community at the 5:00 p.m. mass Sunday, March 24th.

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.

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 and at the Rectory

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.

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.

DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

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| April 03, 2019 | Divine Mercy Devotion | 6:30pm |
| April 10, 2019 | Divine Mercy Cenacle | 6:30pm |
| April 17, 2019 | Exposition of Blessed Sacrament | 7:00pm |
| | Divine Mercy Chaplet-7:30pm | Benediction-8:00pm |
| April 24, 2019 | Divine Mercy Devotion | 6:30pm |
| April 28, 2019 | DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY | |
| | Eucharistic Adoration-1:30pm | Benediction 3:00pm |
| | Fellowship /refreshment follows in Parish Hall | |

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.
- **Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish**(83-17 78th Ave., Glendale, 718-821-6434) welcomes your parish community to a teaching and exposition of Sacred Relics on Monday, April 8th. Over 150 relics will be present, some as old as 2,000 years. There will be a presentation by Fr. Carlos from 7-8 PM in the church, followed by public Veneration of Relics from 8-10 PM in the church basement
- Join the **37th Annual Pax Christi Metro New York Way of the Cross** on **April 19th at 8:30am** on 47th St. & 1st Ave.(Dag Hammarskjold Plaza) to the vicinity of the Holy Cross Church (42nd St. bet. 8th & 9th Ave The Good Friday Way of the Cross is a modern day enactment of the Stations of the Cross, praying for peace and justice on the streets of our city. Please wear or carry a cross.
- The **Monsignor McClancy Memorial High School** (72-02 31st Ave., East Elmhurst, 718-898-3800) **drama society** will be presenting the musical "**Oliver**", in the school's auditorium, on April 5th, 6th, 11th, 12th, & 13th at 7:00pm. General admission is \$15; Seniors & Children under 12yrs. are \$12..For more info call 718-898-3800 ext.2.
- **Rummage Sale at Holy Child Jesus Church**(111-02 86th Ave, Richmond Hill): 4/5- 7 to 9pm=special preview-\$5 entrance;4/6&7 -9am to 5pm.

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

