

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday December 14th
 8:30 AM In Thanksgiving to Almighty God
 5:00 PM Victor Lamarque

Sunday December 15th
 8:30 AM Edward Flood
 10:00 AM Parish Mass
 12:00 PM George Van Nostrand
 5:00 PM Giuseppa Pizzo

Monday December 16th
 8:30 AM Laura Leong
 12:00 PM Bill LaTulip

Tuesday December 17th
 8:30 AM In Honor of the Holy Trinity & the Blessed Mother
 12:00 PM Candie Holochuck

Wednesday December 18th
 8:30 AM Nellie Rooney (53rd Anniversary)
 12:00 PM James Sommero

Thursday December 19th
 8:30 AM Deceased Members of the Szabados Family
 12:00 PM Uy Chun and Dolores Uy

Friday December 20th
 8:30 AM Francis Morison
 12:00 PM John Daly

Saturday December 21st
 8:30 AM Michael Minischetti
 5:00 PM Marita Ang

Sunday December 22nd
 8:30 AM Mara/Butler Families
 10:00 AM Parish Mass
 12:00 PM Michele & Orsola Perricone
 and Deceased Family Members
 5:00 PM Vera, John, & Tommy Caccamo



PRAY FOR THE SICK

Patricia Becktold, Ida Ryan, Connie Bornhimer, Pete Rose, Mary Wiley, Kathie Greulich, Joseph & Mary Augustine, Jean Ammirati, Ronald Calcevano, Rose Gaynus, Eleanor Merlino, Seraphina Komlos, Mary Tardona, Dorothy Chocko, Joseph & Catherine Hennessy, Richard McBride Sr., Stacey Headley. 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.

Please do not leave bags of clothing or other items on the steps of the Rectory

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

Robert Skrivanek
 Filomena Vitale
 Vivian Wohlfreth
 James McWalters
 Brindsley Rillen
 Philip McKeon

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

SUNDAY – December 15th
Third Sunday of Advent
 -Christmas Pageant-after 12:00pm Mass
 -Lessons & Carols, Congregational Singing-Church at 6:15pm

MONDAY – December 16th
Advent Weekday
 -Reconciliation-Church from 4:00 to 5:30pm & 6:30 to 8:00pm
 -Scripture Study-Rectory at 7:30pm

TUESDAY - December 17th
Late Advent Weekday
 -RCIA/Centering Prayer-Rectory at 7:30pm
 -Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY – December 18th
Late Advent Weekday
 -Golden Age-Parish Hall at 12:30pm - **All Are Welcome**
 -CCD K thru 5th Gr.-Church at 3:15pm
 -Divine Mercy-Church at 7:00pm

THURSDAY – December 19th
Late Advent Weekday
 -Centering Prayer-Rectory at 2:30pm
 -CCD 6th & 7th Gr.-School at 4:30pm
 -Baptism Class-Rectory at 7:30pm

FRIDAY – December 20th
Late Advent Weekday

SATURDAY – December 21st
Late Advent Weekday
 -Baptism-Church at 1:00pm
 -Parish Christmas Volunteers Dinner-Parish Hall at 6:15pm

If you are not yet registered in the Parish, please stop into the Rectory Office for a Census Form Monday thru Saturday from 9am to 4pm.

MEMORIAL WORSHIP FUND

Many thanks for donations to the Parish Memorial Worship fund given in memory of:

James M. Pfohl
 by
 Elizabeth Pfohl

And

Robert Skrivanek
 by
 Maryellen & Ray Schillo

BREAD AND WINE

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



Helen Enigan
 by
 Casey Family

Dear Parishioners;

Remember the preaching of John the Baptist? John preached that the One to come will be a severe judge - gathering the wheat into His barns and burning the chaff (the useless, inedible, outer shell of the wheat kernels). John has been imprisoned because he condemned the irregular marriage of Herod Antipas, the petty ruler of Galilee. In prison he hears of the words and activities of Jesus. John is perplexed. Jesus seems not to be a severe judge but rather He is healing and restoring to life.

Consequently John sends His disciples to ask Jesus: "Are you the One Who is to come or shall we look for another?" In answer Jesus paraphrases the prophet Isaiah. The first reading this Sunday is from the book of the prophet Isaiah. In beautiful poetry, Isaiah foretold a future in which not only would the parched land be renewed and made fertile but also human beings would be granted a renewal of life.

Paraphrasing the ancient prophet, Jesus responds to John's disciples: "Tell John, what you have seen and heard: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised and the poor have the good news preached to them." This may not be what many people expected. Ideas about the long-expected Messiah varied considerably in Jesus' lifetime, thus the words: "Blessed is the one who takes no offense at Me." The actual Messiah did not meet the expectations of those who yearned for a political ruler or charismatic high priest or mighty conqueror; but rather He is the personification of God's mercy and compassion

Having identified Himself in the imagery of the ancient prophets, especially Isaiah, Jesus goes on to praise John the Baptist. John was no frail reed shaken by the wind; he eschewed fancy dress and he did not live in a royal palace. Rather he was a desert prophet but "more than a prophet". He is the messenger, who prepares the way for the coming Messiah by challenging the people to repentance. The closing line of the Gospel citation is highly significant. It is a Semitic expression: "Amen, I say to you, among those born of women, there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet, the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." The use of "Amen" signifies the gravity or solemnity of what is being said. "Among those born of a woman" means everyone. Yet, among them there is no one greater than John. Taking this literally, it would seem that all the rest of us fade by comparison. But Jesus assures His listeners (and us) that even the least of us can be great in the kingdom of heaven.

That is the kingdom introduced to us radically by the birth of a seemingly unimportant peasant child in Bethlehem over two thousand years ago!

In Christ,
Monsignor John A. McGuirl

ADVENT RECONCILIATION MONDAY

On Monday, December 16, 2019 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.

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.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING



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, Bridge To Life, 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. Your

thoughtfulness always makes Christmas bright for many less fortunate than ourselves, and your generosity is greatly appreciated.

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!

GIFT WRAPPERS NEEDED

We will be wrapping gifts for our Homebound Parishioners on Wednesday, December 18th, and help is always needed. If you would like to help, please come to the Rectory on Wednesday, December 18th at 2:00pm



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 families. 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



BLESSING THE CHRIST CHILD

Bring the baby Jesus, from your family crèche at home, to Mass with you next Sunday! At all Masses on 12/22, including the 5:00pm Mass on 12/21, there will be a special blessing given to all of the baby Jesus statues that are present.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

We always need food staples to re-stock the shelves. Some suggestions are: tuna fish, canned stews, hash, or Spam, Chef Boyardee, powdered or Parmalat milk, jelly, rice, instant mashed potatoes, 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.

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.

Important Notice: Since we Cannot distribute food that has expired. Please Check the Expiration Date on the item Before You Donate It. Thank You.

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



NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

Bid farewell to 2019 and welcome 2020 at Our Lady of Mercy. Begin the evening with the Latin-English Mass at 7:30pm if you wish. After that, the festivities will begin in the Parish Hall, at 8:00pm with dinner, and dancing (wine and champagne toast are included but you may BYOB if you choose).

Admission is \$110.00 and tickets are available at the rectory, text 718-755-1404, or email olmforesthills@gmail.com

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 in need of the sacraments of 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.

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



- **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.
- **March for Life.** Join the faithful from across the Diocese of Brooklyn on Friday, January 24th, in **Washington DC**. The Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis is sponsoring one bus leaving from Brooklyn (Diocesan Offices: 310 Prospect Park West). Parking will be limited. The bus leaves promptly at 6:30am and will return to Brooklyn as soon as the march is over. The cost of the round trip bus transportation is \$25. To reserve your seat please contact Martha Hernandez at 718-281-9540 or email her at mhernandez@diobrook.org by January 17th. Make checks payable to Diocese of Brooklyn, and mail to, 310 Prospect Park West, Brooklyn, NY 11215 Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis Attn. March for Life
- **Home-Delivered Meals from Queens Community House.** For adults age 60+ in Forest Hills, Rego Park, Corona, Elmhurst. Kosher, vegetarian, and Asian meals can be provided. If you or a friend are in need of having a nutritious and delicious meal delivered daily to your front door, call 718-268-1412, Mon-Fri, 9am to 5 pm.
- **FREE Screenings and Hearing Aid Help** at St. John's University Speech and Hearing Center (152-11 Union Turnpike) through December 5. Call 718-990-6480 for appointment.

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 November 4th & 18th, and December 9th. If you are joining for the first time, an RSVP is required. Please contact the group's facilitator, Commissioned Lay Pastoral Leader Yorke Mizelle, at ymizelle@gmail.com, or call the rectory at 718-268-6251

DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

December 18, 2019	Divine Mercy Devotion	6:30pm
December 25, 2019	No Activity	
January 01, 2020	No Activity	
January 08, 2020	Divine Mercy Devotion	6:30pm
January 15, 2020	Divine Mercy Cenacle	6:30pm
January 22, 2020	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament	7:00pm
	Divine Mercy Chaplet - 7:30pm	Benediction - 8:00pm
January 29, 2020	Divine Mercy Devotion	6:30pm

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. Please take pride in our Church, and leave the pews clean. Thank You!

WEEKLY OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please remember to **write the amount of your offering in the space provided 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

