

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**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

**Monday December 23rd**  
 8:30 AM Louis & Pauline Pfohl  
 12:00 PM Cassaccio, Chocko, & Link Families

**Tuesday December 24th**  
 8:30 AM Leonard Quigley & William Kirby  
 12:00 PM Leo Gillespie  
 4:00 PM Christmas  
 10:00 PM Vigil

**Wednesday December 25th**  
 8:30 AM The Nativity  
 10:00 AM Of  
 12:00 PM The Lord

**Thursday December 26th**  
 8:30 AM Anna Luke & Fred Sorrentino  
 12:00 PM Michael & Caroline Sassi, Michael Sassi Jr.  
 and Roland Pugliese

**Friday December 27th**  
 8:30 AM  
 12:00 PM Elizabeth & Harry Walters

**Saturday December 28th**  
 8:30 AM In Honor of the Holy Family  
 5:00 PM Beatrice Nocera

**Sunday December 29th**  
 8:30 AM Stephen & Anna Butler  
 10:00 AM Parish Mass  
 12:00 PM Anna Sorrentino  
 5:00 PM Yolanda Camporese

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**



Patricia Beckett, 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, Rose Jonsson, 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**

Mary Brech

**THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**

**SUNDAY – December 22nd**  
*Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
 -Children’s Liturgy at 10:00am Mass

**MONDAY – December 23rd**  
*Late Advent Weekday*

**TUESDAY - December 24th**  
*Late Advent Weekday*

**WEDNESDAY – December 25th**  
*The Nativity of the Lord*  
 -All Buildings and Offices Closed

**THURSDAY – December 26th**  
*Saint Stephen, The First Martyr*

**FRIDAY – December 27th**  
*Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist*

**SATURDAY – December 28th**  
*The Holy Innocents, Martyrs*

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

**BREAD AND WINE**

Many thanks for this week’s donation of Bread & Wine given in loving memory of:  
**Tosi and Van Nostrand Families**  
 by  
 Mary Van Nostrand



**TABERNACLE LIGHT**



Many thanks for this week’s donation of the Tabernacle Light given in loving memory of:  
**Richard Hunt & Susan Stewart**  
 by  
 Barbara Hunt & Terry Stewart

**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 memoria

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

Dear Parishioners;

This Sunday is the last Sunday of Advent. Christmas is Wednesday, so this will be the last bulletin before the great feast. There is richness in the Christmas readings but it is impossible in this short space to review all of them. For example, the Gospel for the Christmas Vigil, which also conveniently contains part of the citation for the last Sunday of Advent, is the genealogy and birth account of Jesus in St. Matthew's Gospel. The Gospel for the "Night Mass" of Christmas is from St. Luke and presents the familiar story of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and its announcement to the Shepherds. The early Christmas Day Mass is part of the same Gospel from St. Luke. The Mass for Christmas Day features the Prologue of St. John's Gospel, which introduces the mystery of Christ as the Word present with God in the beginning and identified with God.

With such a richness of readings, it behooves us to read them carefully in order to form a full picture of the great gift God has sent us - His very Self- Communication, His self-utterance, the Word of God made flesh in Jesus born at Bethlehem in Judea!

We miss the richness if we do not read all the Gospels for Christmas. For instance, in the genealogy with which St. Matthew begins His Gospel, there seems to be a tedious recital of names. But what a wealth of meaning is hidden there! Matthew is revealing fundamental truths about the Lord, Jesus. He was writing originally for a Jewish/Christian community. These Jewish men and women had accepted Jesus as the Messiah but they were concerned that He was the fulfillment of the prophecies of the First (Old) Testament or Covenant.

The genealogy was not to meant to transmit each and every generation; rather, the ancients used genealogies to establish relationships and continuity. With that in mind, Matthew begins with: "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham". From the start, Jesus is immersed in the Jewish tradition. He is a descendent of the patriarchs: Abraham and Abraham's son, Isaac, and his grandson, Jacob (also known as Israel). Jacob fathered twelve sons, among whom was Judah. Jesus would be born of the tribe of Judah. Centuries after Judah, there would be King David, who also figured among Jesus' remote ancestors. King Solomon, David's son, also finds a place in the genealogy.

Jesus is placed solidly as a descendent of the Jewish Patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He is also a "son of David" as one of the king's remote descendants. But Jesus is also related to all people, (the Gentiles). St. Luke's genealogy illustrates that relationship by tracing Jesus' ancestry right back to Adam. Matthew does the same by uniquely including five women in his genealogy. At that time, genealogies were traced through the male line. Significantly Matthew also situates these women in his genealogy. All the women, but the last, were non-Jews. Several had "interesting" backgrounds.

For instance, Rahab had been a prostitute at the time of the Israelite settlement of the promised land. She favored the new-comers and in a way was a traitor to her Canaanite people. Yet she is in Jesus' background! Though not mentioned by name, the mother of Solomon and wife of king David, reached her exalted position by conniving with David in the death of her first husband, Uriah. Yet she too is in Jesus' background! This indicates several points. Jesus had both the good and the bad in His heritage. He also had non-Israelites in His ancestral line. The last woman mentioned is Mary, "of her is born Jesus, Who is called the Christ"

Matthew divides his genealogy into three sections, each of fourteen generations. As a multiple of seven, which was a number symbolizing divine fulfillment, Matthew indicates that this birth is the perfect fulfillment of God's long plan. It is the "perfect" time.

Finally Mathew narrates the story of Jesus' birth through the eyes of St. Joseph (Luke's narration is more through the eyes of Mary) and he presents Joseph like his namesake, Joseph, one of the sons of Jacob. Through dreams, that earlier Joseph had discerned God's will and was able to save his family in Egypt during a time of famine. Joseph, Mary's husband, also receives God's message in a dream and complies with it. The result will be the birth of the Savior, the Lord Jesus!

In a few verses, Matthew has prefaced his entire Gospel. Through His ancestry, Jesus is related to not only His own people but also to non-Israelites. In His family line are saints and sinners. He is born a subject to the Torah and fulfills the ancient prophecies. Yet, His birth is for all people! For this reason on Christmas, we can "forever sing the goodness of the Lord". (Psalm 89)

On behalf of our entire Parish and Academy staffs, a blessed Christmas & a Happy New Year to all our parishioners and their visitors and friends!

In Christ, born in Bethlehem of Judea,  
Monsignor John A. McGuirl

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*Peace, Joy & Hope!*

Christmas is a day for us to remember God's merciful love. Through Jesus, we come to know who God really is – He is Love. God's love is extended to everyone, including the marginalized, and especially the poor and the homeless. In Jesus, we are given a home – a place where we experience forgiveness, mercy, and love. This is what we celebrate on Christmas: God, our welcoming Father, giving us a place in His heart. As we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, this Christmas, let us be mindful of those who are in need of our welcome – a family member, a friend, a co-worker, a fellow parishioner. Let us make room in our hearts for forgiveness and love, and reach out to those who are asking for them. During this season of giving, let us also find time to help the needy. Let us extend God's gift generosity by helping in a food pantry, preparing a meal or a food basket for a family in need, visiting the sick. Through these simple actions we are able to bring Christ to others this Christmas.

Merry Christmas!  
*In Christ,*  
Deacon Dean

**CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS****BEAUTIFYING OUR CHURCH THIS SEASON****HAVE BEEN DONATED IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

**Francis Morison**  
With Love & Thanks  
by  
Ann & Children

**The Finley and Delaney Families**  
by  
Susan & Frank Finley

**Veronica & James Mauro and Florence & John Romano**  
by  
Frank & Amelia Romano

**Helen & Bill Enigan**  
by  
The Belfiore Family

**Helen & Frank Dubiel and Helen & James Freeley**  
by  
James & Mary Ellen Freeley

**Fred & Pia Parham**  
by  
Allen, Rita & Christine Gina

**Rocco Pezzello & Family**  
by  
Cora Pezzello

**Terence McKinney & Zahide Prono**  
by  
Eric & Anna Marie Prono

**The Velasco & Scott Families**  
by  
The Scott Family

**Deceased Members of the Markey & Gorman Families**  
by  
Carol & Patrick Gorman & Family

**Edward & Rosemarie Brennan and Anna & Arthur Lass**  
by  
Arthur & Christine Lass

**John Cassis**  
by  
George Cassis

**Rosemond Sebastian Bernardo**  
by  
Christine Bernardo

**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](mailto: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

**DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE**

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

**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



# The Community Bulletin Board

- **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](mailto: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
- **Regis High School REACH program is now Accepting Nominations.** REACH is an entirely free high school prep program that prepares middle-school young men for admission to Regis High School and other top Catholic high schools. Students apply as 5th graders and, if accepted, begin the program in the summer before 6th grade. To qualify, Catholic boys must (1) be currently enrolled in the 5th grade; (2) have high grades and test scores; (3) live in NYC and come from a family with demonstrated financial need. To nominate a student visit [www.regis.org/reach/nomination](http://www.regis.org/reach/nomination). The nomination deadline is January 31st, 2020.
- **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. 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](mailto:ymizelle@gmail.com), or call the rectory at 718-268-6251

## 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.**

**Please note that the exercise class will be taking a break for the holidays, and will not meet again until February 5th of 2020.**

## 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.

**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

## 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 **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

