

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	January 18th
8:30 AM	Gloria Hartley
5:00 PM	Antonio Miceli
Sunday	January 19th
8:30 AM	Isabella Minischetti (38th Anniversary)
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Marie Duome
5:00 PM	Katarzyna Dymon
Monday	January 20th
8:30 AM	Janet Blessing
12:00 PM	Albert Viviano
Tuesday	January 21st
8:30 AM	Helen M. Enigan
12:00 PM	Patricia Meany
Wednesday	January 22nd
8:30 AM	Helen Enigan
12:00 PM	Robert M. Sitler Jr.
Thursday	January 23rd
8:30 AM	Pia Parham
12:00 PM	Catherine Gaudino
Friday	January 24th
8:30 AM	Helen Petti
12:00 PM	Zaida Alvarez
Saturday	January 25th
8:30 AM	Marie Concepcion Beaudin
5:00 PM	Anthony Fernandez
Sunday	January 26th
8:30 AM	Michael Minischetti
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Francesca Sacco
5:00 PM	Winston Sammy

**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, Rose Jonsson, Vivian Wohlfarth, Richard Eisenzopf, Alice & Michael Coleman, 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

Rev. Joseph Gancila
James B. Wagner

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

SUNDAY – January 19th

Second Sunday In Ordinary Time

MONDAY – January 20th

Weekday

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

-All Buildings and Offices Closed

TUESDAY - January 21st

Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

-RCIA/Centering Prayer-Rectory at 7:30pm

-Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY – January 22nd

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

-OLMCA Scholastic Book Fair-Parish Hall

-CCD K thru 5th Gr.-Church at 3:15pm

-Divine Mercy-Church at 7:00pm

THURSDAY – January 23rd

Weekday

-OLMCA Scholastic Book Fair-Parish Hall

-Centering Prayer-Rectory at 2:30pm

-CCD 6th & 7th Gr.-School at 4:30pm

-Boy Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

FRIDAY – January 24th

Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

-OLMCA Scholastic Book Fair-Parish Hall

SATURDAY – January 25th

Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle

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.

**TABERNACLE LIGHT**

Many thanks for this week's donation of the Tabernacle Light given in loving memory of:

Zaida Alvarez

by

Jackie Velazquez

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.

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

Dear Parishioners,

In the priesthood there is no such thing as retirement; however, there does come a moment when a priest can step aside from administrative obligations. In our Diocese of Brooklyn/Queens the first opportunity to request "retirement" comes at age 71 (seventy-one). At age 75, retirement from administrative responsibilities becomes mandatory. When seventy one arrived three and half years ago, I had no intention of submitting my resignation to Bishop DiMarzio. Now I have passed my seventy fourth birthday and have had the privilege of being your pastor for over thirteen years. Consequently last March I did write to the Bishop and request what is called "senior priest status" as of June 30th, 2020. In fact that date will bring me within four and a half months of the mandatory retirement age of seventy-five. The Bishop has agreed and has given me permission to continue to reside at Our Lady of Mercy rectory and to give some assistance much in the same manner as the late Monsignor Gerald Langelier did for me before his untimely death six years ago. As the Bishop stated in his letter of permission:

Allow me to inform you that I am pleased to grant you permission to formally enter the ranks of our "senior priests" and with the approval of the newly appointed Pastor of the Parish, I also grant you continued residence at the Parish of Our Lady of Mercy in Forest Hills. The new assignment becomes effective June 30th, 2020...as you know, we never "retire" from our God-given priestly vocation, and with the increasing need we have for priests, our 'senior priests' can be of great assistance..."

That assistance I intend to give, for as long as God grants me relatively good mental and physical health.

Frankly at this point in life, relief from the financial and material care of the parish will be welcome. To be able to take life at an easier pace with a little more free time will also be welcome. Nonetheless, it will require me to change. For a very long time, I have held leadership positions in this Diocese, so the new status will require an alteration in my attitude and expectations.

All the same, my roots were planted here. Baptism, First Communion, my First public Mass (12:15 P.M. - May 28th, 1972) as a new priest, were all celebrated at Our Lady of Mercy. So too were the funerals of my parents, paternal grandparents and several aunts and uncles. This parish is home; though, when I left Manse Street in 1966 for the last two years of college and the subsequent four years of theology at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Huntington, I never dreamed that I would one day be assigned here. Now the home parish has become my longest assignment!

Our parish is home to many people. There is much to recommend it, not the least of which is, the generosity and kindness of our parishioners. They take second place to none. Visitors to our parish regularly comment on the familial friendliness they experience when they participate in the Sacraments here. I think they are correct. Our parish is a real family. Like all families, we have had our ups and downs, so if, in any way, whether deliberately or inadvertently, I have contributed to those "down" moments, I apologize to those whom I may have offended and do ask their forgiveness.

The identity of the new pastor is unknown and in fact, the Diocesan Clergy Personnel Board and the Bishop may have only just begun the process of selecting him. We are still five months from June but I wanted to advise you now of this prospective change of status because I do not want you to read of it first in the pages of our Diocesan Newspaper, *The Tablet*. The new status of "pastor emeritus and senior priest" can be likened to being the parish grandfather and when appropriate and requested, I intend to be of assistance to the new pastor. The late Monsignor Langelier will be my example in this matter, since he was discreetly helpful when I became pastor here in February 2007.

In five months we will enter another era in our parish's ninety year history. I ask for your continued prayers, advice and support. Please be assured of my prayers, especially at the Eucharist.

In Christ,
Monsignor John A. McGuirl
Pastor

LOST & FOUND:

About two weekends ago, a ladies wristwatch was found in the Church. Please call the Rectory (718-268-6143) for further information.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy is back and will be held at 10 am Mass on the following dates: 1/12, 1/26, 2/2, & 2/9. This spirited version of the readings and Gospel, complete with puppets, is aimed at helping children through fourth grade understand the Word. Our youngest, wiggliest parishioners warmly welcomed.

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

**OLM BLOOD DRIVE**

The New York Blood Center is sponsoring a Blood Drive at OUR LADY OF MERCY Church on Sunday February 23, 2020 from 8:45 AM to 2:45 PM in the Parish Hall. At this time of the year, the Center's inventory is at critical low levels. There is an urgent need for donors of all blood types to replenish the supply. Please help and give this vital gift of life by making a blood donation. Donor literature and signup sheets are in the vestibule of the Church for your review. To make a blood donor appointment, please call the rectory office at (718) 268-6143. To facilitate the registration process, please bring your donor card or donor ID number on February 23rd. A photo ID is also necessary.

Walk-in donors are always welcome. Come and bring a friend.

Volunteers are needed throughout the day to provide refreshments and support to the donors. If you are able to offer an hour or two of your time, please leave your name and the time you are available at the rectory office.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD AND THE TRINITY

Join us on any or all Tuesday evenings in January, at 7:30pm, in the Rectory basement for an informal discussion of the beautiful feast of Christ's Baptism and the Trinity. Such discussion will also lead to exploration of the humanity and divinity of Jesus. No previous background is necessary. We provide Bibles for the sessions. Any questions contact David Powell at the Religious Education office (718-261-6285)

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. Our sessions are on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 8:45pm which we combine with bible discussion for other interested adults so please feel free to sit in and join us any Tuesday evening in the Rectory basement.. Please contact David or Carol Powell at 718-261-6285.

OLMCA NEWS**ANNUAL BOOK FAIR ACTIVITIES**

Please join us for our **Scholastic Book Fair** in the **Parish Hall**. On **Wednesday, January 22nd**, we will be open from **4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** We have a special event that night: Children in Grade 2 and below are invited to our **Bedtime Stories Night** from **2pm to 4p.m.** Come in your pajamas, share milk and cookies, read books, make a bookmark with family and friends, and listen to great stories!

On **Thursday, January 23rd**, we will be open all day from **7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.** Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy will have a t-shirt design workshop for students in Grades 3-8.

Our Book Fair will be open on **Friday, January 24th** from **7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** On our final day, **Sunday, January 26th**, our Book Fair will be open from **9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** We will be having a special **Catholic Schools Week Family Mass at 10 a.m.** We invite all parishioners to join us in the Parish Hall for hospitality (and a little book shopping!) after the Mass. Please spread the word. Family and friends are always welcome, and your support is greatly appreciated!

OLMCA OPEN HOUSE

Do you have grade school children and are looking for the best Catholic education in Queens? Come to Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy's Open House and Continental Breakfast on Sunday January 26, 2020 from 11AM to 1 PM. Call now -718-793-2086- and let us know you are coming !

Can't make that date? - We have other Open House dates or we can give a personalized tour with our famous Student Ambassadors! Learn why STEM + M = YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE!



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 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.
- **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. The nomination deadline is January 31st, 2020.

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

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 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, or call the rectory at 718-268-6251

DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

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
February 05, 2020	No Activity	
February 12, 2020	Divine Mercy Devotion	6:30pm
February 19, 2020	Divine Mercy Cenacle	6:30pm
February 26, 2020	No Activity	

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