

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Saturday March 14th**  
 8:30 AM John Wales (Anniversary in Heaven)  
 5:00 PM William Walters

**Sunday March 15th**  
 8:30 AM Henry Timmerman  
 10:00 AM Parish Mass  
 12:00 PM Arthur Bonetti  
 5:00 PM Kathleen Gould

**Monday March 16th**  
 8:30 AM Yolanda Cerrone  
 12:00 PM Dorothea Desmond

**Tuesday March 17th**  
 8:30 AM Nellie & Maurice Rooney  
 12:00 PM Helen Enigan

**Wednesday March 18th**  
 8:30 AM Ly Lee Ngo  
 12:00 PM Phyliss Quinn

**Thursday March 19th**  
 8:30 AM Michael Minischetti  
 12:00 PM Stephen Conlon

**Friday March 20th**  
 8:30 AM Fred Tortora  
 12:00 PM Fred & Pia Parham

**Saturday March 21st**  
 8:30 AM Laura Saraceni  
 5:00 PM Marie Shookster

**Sunday March 22nd**  
 8:30 AM Henry Timmerman  
 10:00 AM Parish Mass  
 12:00 PM Arthur Bonetti  
 5:00 PM Gary Suarez



**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, Richard Eisenzopf, Alice & Michael Coleman, Elaine Stump, Mary Albert, Maureen Medina, Robert Palermo, Cheryl Di Napoli, Jazlyn Castro Bilog, Jerzy Stasiak, Rev. Peter Rayder, Kayla Mendoza, German Diaz, 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; SPC Benjamin Bravmann, U.S. Army; 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**

Marie Lyons  
 Rev. James H. Sweeney  
 Rev. Martin Kirby

**THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**

**SUNDAY – March 15th**

*Third Sunday of Lent*

-Children’s Liturgy-10:00am Mass

**MONDAY – March 16th**

*Lenten Weekday*

-Scripture Study-Rectory at 7:30pm

**TUESDAY - March 17th**

*Lenten Weekday*

-Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

-Lenten Bible Discussion-Rectory at 7:30pm

**WEDNESDAY – March 18th**

*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 3:15pm

-Divine Mercy-Rectory at 6:30pm

**THURSDAY – March 19th**

*Saint Joseph, Spouse of The Blessed Virgin Mary*

-Centering Prayer-Rectory at 2:30pm

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

-Boy Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

-Baptism Meeting-Rectory at 7:30pm

**FRIDAY – March 20th**

*Lenten Weekday*

-Girl Scouts-Parish Hall at 4:00pm & 6:00pm

**SATURDAY – March 21st**

*Lenten Weekday*

**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.**



**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,

One of most popular literary devices utilized by St. John the Evangelist is paradoxical conversations. Jesus has a conversation with someone, then the individual often misunderstands what Jesus is saying or takes something meant to be a metaphor in the literal sense of the words. This gives Jesus the opportunity to rectify the misunderstanding and to bring the conversation to a deeper and more profound level. One of the reasons that Jesus is misunderstood is that His speech is often couched in words that have multiple meanings or rely on rich symbolism. His words and actions often breached the conventional social boundaries.

Today's narration is very typical of St. John. The Evangelist begins by telling us that Jesus "had to pass through Samaria" (in order to reach Jerusalem). Samaria lies along the quickest and most direct route from Galilee to Jerusalem; however, there is no absolute necessity of passing through Samaria since there are alternative routes. The Samaritans, though sharing much culture and religious beliefs with the Jews, for various historical reasons, were akin to estranged cousins. Generally Jews avoided passing through Samaria and used the alternate routes. In this case, Jesus seems determined to take the Good News outside the conventional Jewish areas.

It is a bit difficult in our politically correct world for the modern reader to realize how radical this Gospel narration was. Jesus stops at a well and asks a woman who is drawing water to give Him a drink; however, it was against all common social conventions for an unaccompanied man to speak to an unaccompanied woman. On top of that, this woman is a Samaritan. By the social mores of that time, she had two strikes against her. She herself is amazed and says: "How can, you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?". Jesus in answering her question informs her that she should be asking Him for a drink of "living water". The woman assumes that he is speaking about the water in the well; therefore, she notes that Jesus has no bucket and that the well is deep. This well is also distinguished by the fact that Jacob, the common ancestor of both Jews and Samaritans, had dug it and had used it many centuries before. Jesus continues talking about "water welling up to eternal life". This piqued her interest and she requests "this water so that I may not be thirsty". Of course, the water to which Jesus refers is with reference to a spiritual reality, the life of God which fulfills all human desires and thirsts.

Perhaps aware of the unconventional nature of their conversation, Jesus dismisses the woman but asks her to return with her husband. Jesus' knowledge that she has had several husbands prompts the woman to return to her village and to announce to her townspeople that this man is a prophet and even possibly the Messiah. Before doing so, perhaps to redirect the conversation from her irregular marital life, the woman changes it to a discussion of the proper place of worship, either the temple in Jerusalem or Mount Gerizen (then and now the Samaritan holy place). Jesus is not concerned about the site but He is concerned people "will worship in Spirit and in truth". The Samaritan woman reveals that she has hopes for a future Messiah, who will "tell us everything". To which in one of the boldest affirmations of His messiahship, Jesus replies that: "I am He, who is speaking to you".

The narration ends with the return of the disciples, who have gone to procure food, (Given the strained relationship between Samaritans and Jews, one does wonder where they purchased this food while in Samaritan territory. Jews and Samaritans did not drink or eat in each other's company nor use the same utensils). In another twist, the woman returns to her village center and announces that she may have found the Christ, "who told me everything I have done." On her testimony some villagers come to meet Jesus. Meanwhile the disciples offer Jesus ordinary food while He has offered the woman the drink of eternal life. He admonished the apostles that while they were "shopping", He has been doing "the will of the One Who sent me and to finish His work...". Jesus had reached out to the Samaritans and though the apostles had not done so, they will share in the harvest of people, who have responded to the Good News.

The narration ends bluntly. Many Samaritans begin to believe in Jesus now, not because of the testimony of the lady at the well, but rather because they have encountered Him and been influenced by His preaching. In another break with convention, they invite Him to stay with them and He does so for two days.

The final sentence presents the usual course of conversion. Usually someone leads a person to Christ by talking about Him as does the lady at the well. On her testimony her fellow townspeople seek our Jesus. When they encounter Him, they are convinced of His teaching and invite Him into their lives. The process has remained much the same.

In Christ,  
Monsignor McGuirl

Pastor's Message continued:**WE ARE GETTING THERE.**

Though the Annual Catholic Appeal has just begun, already nineteen families in our parish have pledged \$7,735.00 against our goal of \$81,955. \$6,020.00 has been paid. This is an excellent beginning. In time all of the parishioners will be given the opportunity to participate in this Annual Appeal.

Why is the Appeal so important to our parish? Well for one thing, any amount over the goal will be returned to the parish. This is always helpful in meeting our own parochial obligations. Then the Appeal partially funds several ministries that serve us indirectly but which are beyond the scope of individual parishes. Nonetheless, each is important in the spreading of the Gospel message: the Housing and Food Delivery programs of Catholic Charities, the chaplaincies in our hospitals, Catholic High Schools, City Colleges and prisons; the Vocation Office and the scholarships offered to our post-college seminary students (the priests who hopefully will serve us in the future) and the care of our elderly and retired priests (those who have served us).

Each parish family has different means, but within the limitations set by income and family responsibilities, I do ask that you consider prayerfully making a pledge in this year's Appeal. Many ministries which draw support from the Appeal are vitally important for the health or the continuation of our Diocese. For example, if there are not enough priests, there will be no parishes! Already we are feeling the pinch. In past years, Our Lady of Mercy always had three priests, even before the construction of the School! Now there is only the pastor and one associate in an active parish with an affiliated Academy. When Father Ralph Munday-Kurkana was transferred over four years ago, the members of the Clergy Personnel Board actually toyed with the idea of making Our Lady of Mercy Parish into a one priest operation! That would have meant that a seventy year old man would have had the complete care of this parish and everything that it involves. Thankfully more reasonable minds prevailed.

But let's us not kid ourselves, there are not enough seminarians, who will be future priests to staff the parishes of our Diocese. It is not magic - fewer priests, fewer parishes and this has already come to pass in many areas. This one very crucial area where the support the Annual Appeal gives our seminary system is vital for us and every other parish.

In Christ,  
Monsignor McGuirl

**ST. VINCENT De PAUL CLOTHING COLLECTION**

The St. Vincent De Paul Truck will be in front of OLM, on Kessel St, on Sunday, March 15th between 8:00am and 1:00pm. Please donate clean, gently used clothing only.

**LENTEN BIBLE DISCUSSION**

There will be Lenten bible discussion on Tuesdays, March 10th, and 17th, from 7:30pm to 8:45pm, in the Rectory basement. We will discuss the readings for the Lenten Sunday Masses. All are welcome. No previous background required. Bibles will be provided for discussion purposes. Any questions call the Religious Education Office at 718 261 6285

**SOUP LUNCHEON**

Our Lady of Mercy's annual **Lenten Soup Luncheon** this year will take place on **March 22nd at 1:00pm in the Parish Hall**, and will benefit our own Human Services Department. The guest speaker that day will be Deacon Dean Dobbins.

**LENTEN PARISH MISSION**

On March 23rd and 24th, from 7:30pm to 8:30pm, a mission with the theme of *Mary and the Passion of Jesus: "Be it Done to Me"* will be hosted in the Church. We are privileged to have two well known speakers, Lauren Gentry and Megan Rodriguez, both of whom have conducted recent parish missions at Sacred Heart in Glendale and Our Lady of Hope in Middle Village. They will be accompanied by the Diocesan guitarist and musician, Alverlis

All are invited including friends from other parishes. Come, sit back, relax, and be inspired! The mission will conclude on March 25th with a quiet vigil Mass for the feast of the Annunciation. The Mass will be at 7:30pm

**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.

**FIGHT FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL FUNDING**  
(A message from the Vicar General's Office)

Lawmakers are poised to finalize a state budget on March 31st, which is expected to include hundreds of millions more in funding for public education. It's crucial that we add our voice to ensure that the state's Catholic schools receive their fair share of funding for critical programs that support our students and teachers. Please take action now to send a message to your elected representatives. You may communicate directly or use the following link to send your message: <https://tinyurl.com/wfbeeug>.



# 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.
- **Camp Veritas 2020:** Camp Veritas is a one week play and pray sleep away summer camp for teens going into 7th to 12th grades. It will be held in five locations in 2020; June 29-July 4 at Clongowes Wood College in Ireland; July 19-25 at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, NY; July 26-Aug.1 in Emmitsburg MD; Aug 2-7 in Lake Placid, FL and Aug.16-22 at Camp Lakota in Wurtsboro, NY. Enrollment opens 1/1/20 and enrollment price for each week is only \$400 per camper. More details can be found at [www.campveritas.com](http://www.campveritas.com).
- **Census 2020. Please do not ignore the questionnaire.** Catholic Charities Brooklyn Queens is partnering with NYC Census to make sure that everyone is represented so that Brooklyn and Queens can receive the political and financial benefits that we truly deserve. Correct census results allow our communities to receive funds that shape our local healthcare, housing, education, transportation, employment, and public policy. All people are urged to be counted in the census, regardless of their citizenship.
- **Catholic Charities Mobile Outreach Team** serves our Queens neighborhoods and offers supportive services in the privacy of your home. These services include counseling, connecting you to community-based home care, and legal and mental health services for individuals age 5 and older. Call 718-456-7001.
- **St. Stanislaus Kostka** (57-15 61st St., Maspeth, NY) Rosary Altar Society will host their **Annual Champagne Brunch on March 29th at 12:00 noon**, serving up unlimited Champagne, delicious food and great prizes. There will be a donation of \$17 and you can make reservations by calling Charlie at 718-326-2185
- **Molloy College** (1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre, NY) will hold a **Spring Open House on Sunday, April 26th at 1:00pm.**
- **The Annual Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass** this year will be held at Mary's Nativity Church (46-02 Parsons Blvd., Flushing, NY) on Saturday, May 16th. All couples who have celebrated their marriages in the Catholic Church are invited to attend with their families, and special recognition will be given to couples who are celebrating their 25th, 50th, & 75th Anniversary. A \$35 fee per couple is collected to assist in covering photo cost and reception after Mass. To register and for details, please contact Martha Hernandez at 718-281-9540 or email [mhernandez@diobrook.org](mailto:mhernandez@diobrook.org).

## FEEL GREAT & LOOK GREAT

**Regularly scheduled exercise classes are back!**

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.**

## 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
- **Maggie's Little Theatre at St. Margaret Parish** (66-05 79th Place in Middle Village) will present **"The Envelope Please-A Musical Review of Academy Award Winning Songs..."** on 3/14 & 15, and 3/20 thru 22. For info, call 917-579-5389.
- There will be a **Divine Mercy Bus Pilgrimage with the OLMQ Charismatic Prayer Group** to the **National Shrine of the Divine Mercy** in Stockbridge, Massachusetts on **April 19th**. The bus will **depart 7AM (sharp)** from in front of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church (110-06 Queens Blvd at corner of Ascan Ave.). **Cost: \$50 per person.** Tickets are first come, first serve. Reserve your seat now, invite a friend along, and wear good walking shoes. For tickets or questions, please contact: Cely De Borja 347-743-2304

## 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.

## DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

March 18, 2020	Divine Mercy Devotion	6:30pm
March 25, 2020	Divine Mercy Cenacle	6:30pm
April 01, 2020	Divine Mercy Devotion	6:30pm
April 08, 2020	Divine Mercy Cenacle	6:30pm
April 19, 2020	Divine Mercy Sunday	After 12:00pm Mass
	Exposition, Chaplet, & Benediction, followed by fellowship	
April 22, 2020	Divine Mercy Cenacle	6:30pm
April 29, 2020	Divine Mercy Devotion	6:30pm

## 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](http://svdpauto-brooklynqueens.org)