

**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>May 2nd</b>
8:30 AM	Lea Morra
5:00 PM	Arthur Bonetti
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>May 3rd</b>
8:30 AM	Caroline Chapman
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Flor Quiros
5:00 PM	Frances Lorraine Radawiec
<b>Monday</b>	<b>May 4th</b>
8:30 AM	Gaetanina Masone
12:00 PM	Rose & Ralph Illuminato
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>May 5th</b>
8:30 AM	In Honor of the Holy Trinity and Blessed Mother
12:00 PM	James M. Pfohl
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>May 6th</b>
8:30 AM	Joseph Arcchia
12:00 PM	Robert Malm
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>May 7th</b>
8:30 AM	James Leddy
12:00 PM	Theresa Sevcik
<b>Friday</b>	<b>May 8th</b>
8:30 AM	Ed Lanson and Family
12:00 PM	Edward Dolan
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>May 9th</b>
8:30 AM	Lea Morra
5:00 PM	Elzbieta Anchev
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>May 10</b>
8:30 AM	Zofia Woloszynowska
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Flor Quiros
5:00 PM	Josephine Arcilla

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Patricia Beckett, Ida Ryan, Connie Bornhimer, Pete Rose, Mary Wiley, Kathie Greulich, Joseph & Mary Augustine, Ronald Calcevano, Rose Gaynus, Eleanor Merlino, Seraphina Komlos, Mary Tardona, Dorothy Chocko, Catherine Hennessy, Richard McBride Sr., Stacey Headley, Richard Eisenzopf, Alice & Michael Coleman, Elaine Stump, Mary Albert, Maureen Medina, Cheryl Di Napoli, Jazlyn Castro Bilog, German Diaz, Adam Sapel, Christine Bernardo, Andy Marajh, Stephen Palermo, Robert Palermo, Heather Wilcox, 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**

Carmela Robinson

***ALL SCHEDULED MASS INTENTIONS WILL BE HONORED AND CELEBRATED PRIVATELY, BY THE PRIESTS OF OUR PARISH, THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY AT THE INDICATED TIME.***

**THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**

***Please note that, since all of our offices and buildings are currently closed, all regularly scheduled meetings are temporarily cancelled.***

***Our Lady Of Mercy Catholic Academy will be closed until Further Notice***

**SUNDAY – May 3rd**

*Fourth Sunday of Easter*

**MONDAY – May 4th**

*Easter Weekday*

**TUESDAY - May 5th**

*Easter Weekday*

**WEDNESDAY – May 6th**

*Easter Weekday*

**THURSDAY – May 7th**

*Easter Weekday*

**FRIDAY – May 8th**

*Easter Weekday*

**SATURDAY – May 9th**

*Easter 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.**

**PRAYER FOR HEALING**

Lord we ask You to lift up those who are facing illness today. We ask You to bring Healing, Comfort and Peace to their body, mind and soul. We ask You to calm their fears and let them feel the Healing power of your Love.

**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.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

For the last month and a half we have been reviewing the Sunday readings, especially the Gospels, which proclaim Our Lord's glorious Resurrection in which we are called to have share. However, this week, it seemed fitting that we review some of the aspects of Diocesan and parish life that have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Please feel free to share the following information with your friends and neighbors, even if they are not Catholics. So let's take a look.

**First - some local announcements:** A lovely older lady called me from Middle Village and is very willing to chat on the phone with any other older person who might be feeling stress or isolation during our present quarantine- in- place. If you call the rectory, I will be happy to provide you with her name and number. Also three young adult men from a good parish family as well as one adult gentleman are more than willing to do shopping or other such chores for anyone, but especially senior parishioners, who cannot get out as much as they might like. They can visit the stores or pharmacy on your behalf. Again, if you are interested, call me at the rectory and I will provide you with their names and numbers.

**Our Parish Food Pantry** is not open in order to protect the health of our volunteers; however, we do have some Grab and Go Bags prepared for anyone in an emergency situation but you must call the rectory ahead of time as we have no staff regularly present.

**Now some Diocesan news!** As you may know, NYC is the epicenter for the coronavirus, not only in our State but in the nation. In NY State, Queens and Kings (Brooklyn) Counties are the epicenter of the City and these two boroughs comprise our Brooklyn Diocese. Since 1957 when Nassau and Suffolk counties were separated from the Brooklyn Diocese to form the Diocese of Rockville Center, our Diocese has had the dubious distinction of being the smallest territorial Diocese in the United States but with the largest population. All of us are squeezed into a small geographical area. Our parish, which is in Forest Hills, though it contains some of Rego Park (the section once known as Forest Hills West), is one of the more countrified areas of the Diocese.

While all of us are preparing for eternity, which is our ultimate goal; it would be irresponsible to put at risk our God-given gift of life; therefore, the following regulations are still in force in our Diocese: There are no public Masses being celebrated; however, Mass is being celebrated in this parish ON-LINE five days a week: at 9:00 A.M. on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. On Sunday we offer Mass at noon. Our parish website is: [www.mercyhill.org](http://www.mercyhill.org). Many other parishes are doing likewise and Masses in different languages are celebrated on our Diocesan Net-TV Station every Sunday. While these televised Masses are laudable; they are never to be considered the norm. The norm is that, as the Catholic family, we gather at the Eucharistic Table and receive Our Lord in Holy Communion. It is possible that after the restrictions are lifted, we may still have to observe some sort of social distancing in Church.

Even after the restrictions end, we probably will continue our live-stream Sunday Mass for the sake of our homebound parishioners. With many other parishes, we are installing a permanent camera system thanks to the DeSales Media Group of our Diocese.

#### **How is the Diocese handling the other Sacraments?**

**Baptisms** in our Diocese are being postponed unless it is an emergency, which means the child or adult is close to death. This latter situation might apply more to our hospital chaplains who are on the front lines with this pandemic. To them we owe a word of thanks!

**RCIA** - the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults has continued in our parish ON-line. Mr. Dave Powell, our associate Director of Religious Education, is working Online with the adult candidate for Baptism. That gentleman will probably be Baptized in June.

**Confessions** - emergency reception of the Sacrament of Penance can take place with the proper safety measures observed. This means someone has a serious situation. While there is no replacement for Sacramental Confession, God's mercy is not limited by anything, even the celebration of the Sacraments. We put our trust in His mercy. If an emergency celebration is to take place here, it would probably be outdoors. There is not to be a regular confession schedule until further notice.

**Anointing of the Sick** - The Sacrament can be celebrated but safety measures are to be observed. The priest is required to wear a surgical mask, gloves and even the use of a cotton swab to apply the sacred oil to the person's forehead and hands. Again the Sacrament is irreplaceable but one should remember that the Apostolic Pardon with its accompanying plenary indulgence is available as well.

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**Confirmation** - our Confirmation is slated for the fall so we do not foresee a problem.

**First Communions** which are normally celebrated at this time of the year have been postponed to dates not yet decided. When public Masses resume (at a date not yet determined), there is the option of individual children receiving First Communion at a Sunday Mass with their families. If this option is used the rectory must be notified previously so that the proper records can be maintained and a certificate issued.

**Pre-Cana** - for those contemplating marriage, the Pre-Cana Program is On-Line and may be utilized in that fashion.

**Marriages** - The State and City are issuing On-Line marriage licenses, which are necessary for any marriage of any kind which takes place in NYS or City. Those licenses are legitimate but a valid Catholic priest or deacon cannot witness marriages Online. If a marriage is planned for this coronavirus season and it cannot be postponed then a ceremony can be performed in Church utilizing the proper social distancing and limiting the attendees to the priest and/or deacon, the bride, the groom, and the maid (matron) of honor and the best man.

**Funerals** - Funeral Masses are not possible presently. At OLM, we have been meeting the hearse at the front of the Church and praying the commendation prayers usually said at the end of the requiem Mass and also blessing the body of the deceased. Hopefully later on memorial Masses can be offered for the deceased.

**Please Note that anyone who has a death in the family and finds themselves in a financial difficulty** should make an inquiry through their undertaker, who can call Catholic Cemeteries Office - Diocese of Brooklyn (1-718- 894-4888). **The St. Vincent DePaul Society of our Diocese has as a major ministry - the arrangements for the burial of the poor in a Catholic Cemetery.** The Cemetery Office can make the contact.

The Diocesan newspaper, *The Tablet* has not been delivered in bulk during this pandemic but it is delivered to individual subscribers. In the May 2nd/3rd issue, the Diocesan springtime assignments appear.

As most of our active parishioners recall, months ago I informed the parish that I would step down from administrative duties as of June 30th, 2020. I was raised in this parish; however, after ordination in 1972, I never thought that I would be returning here. Now in fact this has been my longest assignment! I have been your pastor for over thirteen years and will reach seventy-five years in November. At seventy-five a priest must relinquish administrative roles, though in fact no priest really retires. In his senior years he pursues pastoral ministry at his own pace.

I mention this here because there is a mistake in *The Tablet*. In the Diocesan Assignments Listing, there is a section entitled "Retired". It lists Rev. Msgr. Dennis Herron, Rev. Msgr. Edward Ryan, and myself. For each priest, his pastorate is noted plus his future place of residence. Both Msgr. Herron and Msgr. Ryan are changing their residences. I am not, though *The Tablet* made a mistake. It reads: "Rev. Msgr. John A. McGuirl, from pastor of Our Lady of Mercy, Forest Hills to senior priest status while remaining in residence at Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs". It is an easy mistake to make since both parishes border each other and have many things in common. Nonetheless, I will be in residence here at Our Lady of Mercy! I have requested that the Clergy Personnel Office correct this mistake in a future edition of *The Tablet*.

I will cease being pastor here on June 30th and Father Frank Schwarz will succeed me on July 1st. Presently Father Schwarz is the pastor of American Martyrs Church in Bayside/Hollis Hills; yet, some of our parishioners may remember him from earlier years when he was an associate at Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs. Like my predecessor, the late Monsignor Langelier, and his predecessor, the late Monsignor John Johnston, I intend to remain in residence at Our Lady of Mercy rectory and assist our new pastor as best I can. My change in status will not affect that of Father Greg, Deacon Dean or any other staff members.

Hopefully this rather long article addresses some of your concerns. **Please share this information and our website with your neighbors and friends: [www.mercyhills.org](http://www.mercyhills.org).**

Thanks so much - be at peace, please keep me, Father Greg and Deacon Dean and our staff in your prayers as you are in mine. Keep safe & God bless you.

Monsignor McGuirl

Jesus is with you

I am with you when things are going good,  
when the way is bright and clear,  
I am with you my child when life looks bleak,  
and your vision is blurred with tears.

I am with you when Happiness fills your heart,  
when the sun is shining bright,  
I am by you're side when you feel alone,  
and you're surrounded by darkest night.

I am with you when you have many friends,  
when others for you care,  
I am always with you when you're alone,  
your loneliness to share.

I am with you when you're radiant with health,  
when you don't lack at thing,  
I am next to you when you're in pain,  
I am there to comfort bring.

My child, I will always be there for you,  
remember that I care,  
Remember that you're not alone,  
I am there to your sorrows share!

I will always be with you til the end of the world,  
I'll be there each step of the way,  
I am with you every moment, each hour,  
and each and every day.

Author Unknown

God Bless You Always  
Deacon Dean Dobbins

***PRAY THE ROSARY***

