

**MASS INTENTIONS**

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|------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>May 9th</b>                     |
| 8:30 AM          | Lea Morra                          |
| 5:00 PM          | Elzbieta Anchev                    |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>May 10th</b>                    |
| 8:30 AM          | Zofia Woloszynowska                |
| 10:00 AM         | Parish Mass                        |
| 12:00 PM         | Flor Quiros                        |
| 5:00 PM          | Josephine Arcilla                  |
| <b>Monday</b>    | <b>May 11th</b>                    |
| 8:30 AM          | Joseph Di Capua (25th Anniversary) |
| 12:00 PM         | Anna Sorrentino                    |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>May 12th</b>                    |
| 8:30 AM          | William Hoogsteden                 |
| 12:00 PM         | In Thanksgiving to Almighty God    |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>May 13th</b>                    |
| 8:30 AM          | Francis Morison                    |
| 12:00 PM         | Mary & George Xuereb               |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>May 14th</b>                    |
| 8:30 AM          | Philip Ferrato                     |
| 12:00 PM         | Kathleen Jane Marchetti            |
| <b>Friday</b>    | <b>May 15th</b>                    |
| 8:30 AM          | Andrzej Witkowski                  |
| 12:00 PM         | William Walters                    |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>May 16th</b>                    |
| 8:30 AM          | Marta Velarde                      |
| 5:00 PM          | Giuseppa Pizzo                     |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>May 17th</b>                    |
| 8:30 AM          | James Peter Stewart                |
| 10:00 AM         | Parish Mass                        |
| 12:00 PM         | Ervin M. Dudas                     |
| 5:00 PM          | Rosemarie Tinschert                |

**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, James Leung, Rose McArdle, Maureen Kelly, 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**

Kevin Comiskey

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

**Our Parish Food Pantry** is not open in order 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.

**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 10th**

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*

*Mothers Day*

**MONDAY – May 11th**

*Easter Weekday*

**TUESDAY - May 12th**

*Easter Weekday*

**WEDNESDAY – May 13th**

*Easter Weekday*

**THURSDAY – May 14th**

*Saint Matthias, Apostle*

**FRIDAY – May 15th**

*Easter Weekday*

**SATURDAY – May 16th**

*Easter Weekday*

**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 Parishioners:

As I grow older I spend an awful lot of time looking for things - glasses in the morning, keys at any point of the day, documents that I was just working on, records that I was just using. Very often they are staring me in the face. Look there, it's in front of you! Sometimes it happens in the store - where is that athlete's foot powder? - call the clerk - "Sir, it's right there in front of you!"

That's the sort of thing that is happening in today's Gospel: "Master, show us the Father and it will be enough for us." The response: "Philip, have I been with you so long a time and still do not know me?" The dialogue reminds us that in Jesus we encounter all that we know of God. This key to St. John's Gospel, wherein Jesus constantly stresses His unity with the Father: "The Father and I are One." The apostles may not have always had the same grasp of God that Jesus reveals: after all they probably wanted Jesus to found a great kingdom in which of course, they would be in influential positions. There are times when they missed the boat altogether. An example is when the Samaritans refused Jesus hospitality and the response of James and John was to "call down fire from heaven on them". An act Jesus forbids. Though they had been with Jesus from the beginning they had not grasped His teachings on God's mercy and evenhanded generosity. They had failed to recognize what was in front of them; Jesus enacting God's compassion in His words and actions.

Here Jesus is telling them - you want to see our God - well folks - He is standing right in front of You! The invisible God has become visible in Jesus of Nazareth. The Father is present in Jesus. In Him we encounter all we truly know of God. Many of the terms we may use about God have Greek philosophical origins - they are true as far as they go - He is omniscient or all-knowing, omnipotent or almighty; He is all just, all loving, all present, infinite; He has no beginning nor any end. Sometimes these terms, though true, push God further away from us. God's remedy to that is Jesus. He is the Father's self-description, God's only command, and God's dream for humanity. Hence He is the way, the life and the truth.

Jesus is the icon of the Father, we are the icons of Jesus. If we model our lives on Christ, not only will we be fulfilling God's will, we will become the kind of humans God has always dreamt of and we will reflect God's grace to those we meet. We were made in God's image and likeness (Genesis 1:27-28) and to fulfill that likeness we must be like Jesus.

Sometimes, following Jesus' example means taking on a specific role of service, like the original deacons mentioned in the first reading taken from St. Luke's sequel to his Gospel, The Acts of the Apostles. Priests, deacons, religious brothers or sisters, parents, teachers or those who serve the poor have specific roles. Yet often discipleship is more general: a spiritual stance that guides every decision - permeates every word and action. Either way, those who follow Christ are His icons just as He is the Icon of the Father. We may have little worth in human eyes but we are icons of the one true God which means that we are a "chosen race, a royal priesthood, a people of His own." Jesus tells us that as we do the works that "I do" we are a sign of hope, confirming that God is still at work in the world, and calling everyone "out of darkness into His own wonderful light."

Monsignor McGuirl

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**Letter From Bishop DiMarzio**

To the Faithful of the Diocese in Brooklyn & Queens:

As you read this letter, we are in the midst of the Easter Season. We rejoice in the risen Jesus and in what that Resurrection means for us who are members of His Body. By His Cross and Resurrection, Christ has set us free.

Yet, as much as we believe and rejoice in that Paschal mystery, we are celebrating in a very difficult and challenging time. Our observance of Lent this year was marked by unexpected and unwelcome penances for which we did not ask. Easter is marred by the same. We always trust in Jesus and His promise to be with us always and His command to us not to fear.

The pandemic we are experiencing has done many things. It has, first of all, taken from us some of our loved ones. Many of us have experienced the suffering of so many sick people. At the same time we have also seen the strength and resilience of many of our first responders, doctors, nurses and other medical personnel, and so many more who are considered to be essential workers. This has moved us to feel and express a gratitude which we perhaps should have expressed previously. So we mourn our beloved dead, we continue to pray for the sick among us and we thank those who help bravely.

Our spiritual lives have changed, too. We have experienced the closure of our churches. How painful this is to us, who feel that the Church is a "second home" in so many ways. We have been unable to receive the sacraments. I am thinking most especially of the Sacrament of Penance and Eucharist.

Please allow me to reflect on that for a moment. The sacraments are indeed the way that Jesus chose to remain in our lives and the way that we continue to experience His presence and work among us. Nothing can replace that for us. It is most especially true in the Eucharist where Jesus is truly and substantially present to us that we experience Him in a unique and irreplaceable way. However, this experience has also taught us that Jesus cannot be limited. He cannot be contained. We can and do experience Him in many different ways. A sincere Act of Contrition and a Spiritual Communion, while not replacements for the sacraments, are ways to allow Jesus into our lives. We have even been unable to mourn our dead in the ways we are accustomed to doing. While this is heart breaking, we know that God's mercy is overwhelming and we can pray for our loved ones at all times.

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The closing of our churches has been unavoidable, as Brooklyn and Queens has had nearly 60% of all cases of Covid-19 in New York City. Though there are many who doubt and even publicly speak out against the decisions made to close churches and maintain social distancing, please know that decisions like these have not been taken lightly, especially in this Diocese where Brooklyn and Queens are literally at the epicenter of the crisis in New York City, which is the epicenter of the United States. We have had to resort to these desperate measures to prevent the further loss of life and spread of disease. Life is God’s great gift and we must protect it before us. I ask that we all strive to understand, to adapt and to rise up to these challenges.

That is why our churches will remain closed until it is safe to reopen them, a decision that will be made by Diocese of Brooklyn with the assistance of Mr. Joseph Esposito (former Commissioner of the Office of Emergency Management for New York City) in conjunction with public health authorities. When our churches do reopen, unfortunately, we will not be able to resume church life as we enjoyed it before. There will be changes to keep everyone healthy and safe. We will respond as always, as faithful People of God, to the challenges placed before us. I ask that we all strive to understand, to adapt and to rise up to these challenges.

I want to thank our priests and deacons who have learned new ways to minister to you: for streamed Masses and retreats, homilies and talks, and various other engaging events on line which all help us remain close as the parish families we are and keep our spirits lifted as joy filled Christians.

We continue to pray for our beloved dead, may they rest in peace; and we pray for the sick that they will experience the presence of Christ the Healer; for our governmental leaders; for our dedicated first responders, doctors, nurses, medical personnel, funeral directors, and essential workers; for the clergy and religious of our Diocese and for us all. May the Lord, who is Mercy Itself, lead us out of this difficult time and into a time of good health and new life.

The month of May is dedicated in a particular way to our Blessed Mother. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has asked us to pray the Rosary most fervently this month for an end to this pandemic. We place our trust in the intercession of Mary and of her blessed spouse St. Joseph whose feast we celebrate today, May 1st. Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us! St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, pray for us! With an assurance of my continued remembrance of you in prayer, I am

Sincerely in Christ,  
Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D.  
Bishop of Brooklyn

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**Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Faithful for the Month of May 2020**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this “family” aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing. Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2020 Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist

**FIRST PRAYER:**

O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus’ suffering, and persevered in your faith. “Protectress of the Roman people”, you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin

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## SECOND PRAYER

“We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God”. In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary.

Amen.

## *PRAY THE ROSARY*

