

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday January 6th
8:30 AM Deacon Edward Smolinski - 90th Birthday
(Living Intention)
5:00 PM John Daly

Sunday January 7th
8:30 AM Herman, Joanne, & Katherine Holzknacht
10:00 AM Parish Mass
12:00 PM Wlodzimierz Radecki
5:00 PM John Saver & John Hickey Jr.

Monday January 8th
8:30 AM Janet Blessing
12:00 PM Robert Casaccio

Tuesday January 9th
8:30 AM Henry Foertsch
12:00 PM George Shookster

Wednesday January 10th
8:30 AM Anna C, Lass
12:00 PM Arthur Savarese (Happy Birthday in Heaven)

Thursday January 11th
8:30 AM Joseph DiCapua & BiFalco & DiCapua Families
12:00 PM Patrick Anthony

Friday January 12th
8:30 AM Nabil Kassib
12:00 PM Joan Sauro

Saturday January 13th
8:30 AM **Emilia Soriano**
5:00 PM Mary Russomanno

Sunday January 14th
8:30 AM Mary Foertsch
10:00 AM Parish Mass
12:00 PM Georgina Rada
5:00 PM Alfred & Giovanna Infosino

PRAY FOR THE SICK

James Leung, Alice Coleman, Robert & Mary Tardona, Antoinette Wagner, Richard Kelly, Rose Jonsson, Mary Ann Matecki, Vincent Lucanie, Patrick Norton, Diane Kitson, Peggy Racanelli, Maureen Medina, Jeanne Woods, Mary Honan, Ron Areas, Bonnie Nison, Gerry Holmes, Peter Ruelius, Pat Reilly, Dottie Phillips, Marilyn Jagiello, Vera Garofalo, Carolyn Kalnberg, Frank Kalnberg, Faith Fedechko, Margaret Hefferon, Josie Bellina, Ann Restaino, Maureen Kelly, Manuel Juan Perez, Dianne Nudelman, Manuel Calidonio Sr., Inez Arastia, Sofia Robello, Ethel Timmerman, Lorraine Kohlmann, Samuel Mantilla, Marianne Albert, Caroline Pugliese, Ervin Dudas, Rev. Joseph Gurdak, OFM, Cap., Patricia Matecki, Patricia Riddick, Salvatore Tuminello, Daniella Salcau, Tom DiNucci, and for **all of our parishioners who are currently hospitalized or homebound.**

PRAY FOR THE ARMED SERVICES

Capt. Peter Sulewski, U.S. Army; Lt. Col. Patrick Davis, U.S. Army (JAG); Sgt. Beau Parham, U.S. Army; Capt. Paul Lentz, USAF; Sgt. Larry Saume, U.S. Army; Capt. Travis Swiatocha, USMC, Pvt. Tim Richardson, U.S. Army, Sgt. 1st Class James Walsh, 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

Taciana P. Uy
Thomas Kelly

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – January 7th**

The Epiphany Of The Lord

MONDAY – January 8th

The Baptism Of The Lord

-Scripture Study-Rectory Meeting Room at 7:30pm

-Prayer Group-Church at 7:30pm

TUESDAY - January 9th

Weekday

-Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY – January 10th

Weekday

-No Exercise Class

-Golden Age-Parish Hall at 12:30pm - **All Are Welcome**

-CCD K thru 5th Gr.-Church at 3:00pm

-Divine Mercy-Rectory at 6:30pm

THURSDAY – January 11th

Weekday

-Centering Prayer-Rectory at 2:30pm & 7:30pm

-CCD 6th & 7th Gr.-School at 4:00pm

-RCIA-Rectory at 7:30pm

-Boy Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:30pm

FRIDAY – January 12th

Weekday

-Girl Scouts-Parish Hall at 4:00pm

SATURDAY – January 13th

Weekday

If you are not yet registered in the Parish, please stop into the Rectory for a Census Form Mon. thru Sat. 9am-4pm.

**TABERNACLE LIGHT**

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

Earl Duree

by

Virginia Schimmenti

**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.

Reflection for The Epiphany of the Lord

In the eastern Church, both Catholic and Orthodox, Epiphany has almost the same significance as Christmas. The Greek word "epiphany" means a "showing forth" - a presentation. That's what we celebrate this Sunday. The Lord Jesus is revealed to the nations, which are represented by the Magi (or Three Kings or Wise Men). In Spain, Latin America and other countries, gifts are shared on Epiphany as a remembrance of the gifts brought to the Child Jesus by the Wise Men. The Wise Men are often called "kings" because of the types of gifts they carried, especially gold which is always linked with royalty. St. Matthew's Gospel does not inform us of the number of wise men but again we assume that there were three, because there were three gifts.

There was not too much information given in Scripture about the Magi from the east. Traditionally they are named Melchior, Caspar, and Balthazar. It is most likely that they came from Persia since the word "magi" is of Persian origin. It is also the root word of the English word "magic". The word "magi" referred to a class of priests or astrologers. This last option seems plausible since they were interested in the stars. Their special star could be explained by a natural phenomenon such as a comet, the alignment of planets, or a nova, all of which were recorded near the time of Jesus' birth. However, it also could be supernatural. Regardless of its origin, it is clear that God used the star to make evident the great event of Jesus' birth.

It was common in the ancient world to view a special star as a signal of the birth of a king, so it makes sense that the Magi were looking for the king of the Jews. The news of Jesus' birth troubled Herod the Great because he was the king of the Jews, appointed as such by Rome. Herod was a power-hungry ruler who had no problem eliminating anyone who threatened his rule, even his own family members. The news from the Magi came as a threat to his power and thus he deceptively sent them to find Jesus' location in order to kill Him. Yet, the Magi went to venerate the Child.

The fact that Gentiles came to worship the Messiah is evidence that Jesus came for all of humanity. The expensive gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh were only fit for a king. They also indicate Jesus' humanity. Gold was a metal commonly associated with kings. Jesus is a king. Frankincense was an aromatic spice used in divine worship. Jesus is God. Myrrh was used to preserve the bodies of the dead. Jesus is human and like all humans He will die. Jesus is Emmanuel (God with us).

The Magi represent all those who seek and pursue the truth. Since they represent all of humanity, in art the three Magi are often pictured as members of the major human groupings.

The Magi's return by another way symbolically represents that whenever we encounter Jesus, we will never remain the same.

*In Christ,
Deacon Dean & Msgr. McGuirl*

**OLM CONSOLATION MINISTRY
NEEDS HELP**

At present, there are not many active members in our consolation Ministry. The "precious few" that we have, work tirelessly to make sure that no parishioner finds it necessary to deal with the loss of a loved one alone. By helping families through the difficult process of handling final arrangements for services, the Consolation Minister actually makes an unpleasant experience a bit easier to bear. Please consider joining those who are already performing this valuable ministry. Call or stop by the Rectory if you are interested in helping, or if you would like to know more about this ministry.

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 need of the sacraments First Communion or Confirmation. It is our privilege and joy to help you be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. Please contact David or Carol Powell at 718-261-6285.

CENTERING PRAYER

Looking for quiet, inner peace, a deeper union with God? Centering Prayer has resumed.

NEW SCHEDULE FOR CENTERING PRAYER

Starting with the new year, the Tuesday afternoon Centering Prayer will be moved to Thursdays at 2:30pm, in the Rectory. All are welcome to join! Any questions please call Carol Powell at 718-261-6285.

FEEL GREAT & LOOK GREAT

Feel and look great at our exercise class every Wednesday from 9:00 to 10:00 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**

SPECIAL BALANCE & FALL PREVENTION CLASS

Gerard McNiff, the instructor of the regular Wednesday classes here at OLM, will present this special class on **January 31st, 2018 at 2:00pm in the Parish Hall.** He will be giving tips on improving your balance, mobility, and posture, and teaching ways to prevent falls as well as things to do to improve flexibility and focus. Remember! Life is all about balance.

CHOIR NEWS

Our choir season has begun and we look forward to welcoming new members, as well as our returning ones. You do not need to be able to read music and there are no formal auditions. Our choir welcomes everyone, (Adult and Youth from 7th Gr. Up). 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. At this point, for your convenience, there are no evening rehearsals during the week. Soon we will be preparing Christmas music. So, 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.

**OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC ACADEMY
CHANGE DRIVE**

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy is having its annual Change Drive. There are two collection containers at the back of the church. Please consider donating some spare change. The money we collect will be added to the profits of our upcoming Scholastic Book Fair, which will be held in the Parish Hall from Wednesday, January 24th to Sunday, January 28th. It will be used to purchase resources for our Academy Library and will be matched by Scholastic, who will distribute an equivalent value of books to underprivileged children through organizations such as the *Kids In Need Foundation*, *Reader to Reader, Inc.*, and the *National Center for Families Learning*. A small donation from you can really make a huge difference in the lives of our students and children in need. Every little bit helps!

DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

January 10, 2018	Divine Mercy Cenacle	6:30pm
January 17, 2018	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament	7:00pm
	Divine Mercy Chaplet	7:30pm
January 24, 2018	Divine Mercy Devotion	6:30pm
January 31, 2018	Divine Mercy Cenacle	6:30pm

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.

RICH IN MERCY PRAYER GROUP

Do you have a special need and would like prayer? Do you want to integrate into a community of fraternal love and sharing? All are invited to come and join the weekly prayer group filled with lively songs of praise and worship to Our Lord Jesus Christ. The group meets on Mondays, in the Church at 7:30pm (there will be no meeting on January 15th)



The 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.
- **Rachel's Helpers**, a post-abortion ministry for women, is sponsoring a program entitled **Forgiven and Set Free** for women who have had an abortion and are seeking spiritual healing. There will be sessions every Monday from 2/12/18 thru 4/23/18, from 7:30 to 9:30pm. Please call 347-702-2352 for more info. There is no fee and all calls are confidential.
- **Camp Fatima for boys and Camp Bernadette** for girls are now accepting registrations for the 2018 summer season. The camps, located in the Lakes region of NH, offer 2 week overnight sessions for children ages 6-15. Round trip bus transportation is available out of Long Island. For more information, or to request a brochure, contact Brendan Stackhouse at 603-364-5851 or email brendan@bfcamp.com.
- "Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God." Let us learn to comfort each other better by attending a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend**. The next Weekends are July 14-15, 2018 in Bayside, NY and Sept. 14-16, 2018 in Huntington, NY. For more information, call Richard & Pinky Arteca at 877-697-9963 or visit at <https://bqwwme.org>.
- **Pray for me, Diocese of Brooklyn** is a new initiative where you can submit your prayer requests and pray for each others' intentions, in partnership with the Sister Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara in Borough Park, Brooklyn. To submit your prayer requests, go to www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/prayforme.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Mary Louis Academy has notified us that the following parishioners (previous OLM students) have attained Honor Roll status after the last marking period: Stella DiCicco, Vera Kropf, Klara Meditz, Caitlin Murphy, Chiyoko Goya, Joanna McNulty, Christine Thomas, Alexandra Vendola, Nina Kropf.

CYO GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Girls who attend school at Our Lady of Mercy, Saint Margaret (Middle Village), and Resurrection Ascension (Rego Park) or live within the boundaries of those parishes are invited to participate in CYO Girls Volleyball. Teams will be formed with players in the 3rd thru 8th grades. Practice & games will be held at St Margaret. More info at stmsports.org.

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 the **first and third Mondays** of each month, from 7-9 p.m., in the rectory, and facilitated by Commissioned Lay Pastoral Leader, Yorke Mizelle. Call the OLMQ rectory at 718-268-6251 if interested in attending or more info, email ymizelle@nyc.rr.com.
- **Our Lady of Hope (Middle Village)** is beginning an outreach service called Witnesses of Mercy. It's purpose is to provide visitation and companionship to seniors living alone and homebound of all ages and faiths. If you are interested in a visit or in volunteering for this ministry, please contact Mario @347-642-3117.

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, and to dispose of all refuse in the receptacles provided at the Church doors. Please take pride in our Church, and leave the pews clean. Thank You!

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL GIVES BACK

Our Lady of Mercy will share in the profits. For each **donated car, truck or van, running or not**, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will give back to our parish **\$50/\$100 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, the most recent being just last week, because of the kindness of those who contributed their old car to the St. Vincent DePaul Society. Thank you for your participation, and please continue to spread the word. Call St. Vincent de Paul at (718)491-2525

Come let us
Adore
Him


