

**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>January 5th</b>
8:30 AM	Evelyn Naraci
5:00 PM	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 6th</b>
8:30 AM	Herman, Joanne, & Katherine Holz knecht
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Jean Hoffman
5:00 PM	Graham & Diane McGinley (Living Intention)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>January 7th</b>
8:30 AM	Earl Duree (Birthday Remembrance)
12:00 PM	Daniel Cahill
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>January 8th</b>
8:30 AM	Robert Casaccio
12:00 PM	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>January 9th</b>
8:30 AM	Henry A Foertsch
12:00 PM	George Shookster
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>January 10th</b>
8:30 AM	
12:00 PM	Arthur Savarese (Happy Birthday in Heaven)
<b>Friday</b>	<b>January 11th</b>
8:30 AM	Joseph DiCapua & BiFalco & DiCapua Families
12:00 PM	Michael Seagrave
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>January 12th</b>
8:30 AM	
5:00 PM	Nabil Kassis
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 13th</b>
8:30 AM	Jean Hoffman
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Vita DeRose
5:00 PM	James Conroy (1st Anniversary)

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Robert & Mary Tardona, Alice Coleman, Isabel Azzaro, Richard Eisenzopf, Bonnie Nisson, Rebecca Mintz, Lewis Stein, Peter Fulchiron, Diane McGinley, Graham McGinley, Mary Albert, Maureen Medina, Stan Spence, John Karkheck, Jack Fruhling, Margaret Rahfield, 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; 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****THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH****SUNDAY – January 6th***The Epiphany Of The Lord*

-Children's Liturgy-10:00am Mass

**MONDAY – January 7th***Christmas Weekday*

-Scripture Study-Rectory at 7:30pm

**TUESDAY - January 8th***Christmas Weekday*

-Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

**WEDNESDAY – January 9th***Christmas Weekday*-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 10th***Christmas Weekday*

-Centering Prayer-Rectory at 2:30pm

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

-Boy Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

**FRIDAY – January 11th***Christmas Weekday***SATURDAY – January 12th***Christmas Weekday*

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

**BREAD AND WINE**

Many thanks for this week's donation of Bread & Wine given in **loving memory of:**

**Florence Simko**  
by  
Eileen Simko

Dear Parishioners,

Coincidentally this weekend, the Feast of the Epiphany falls on the traditional date - January 6th. For several years, for the convenience of the people, the Church has celebrated this feast on the nearest Sunday. This year that Sunday falls on the actual date.

The feast celebrates the arrival of the Wise Men or the Three Kings in Bethlehem to honor the new born Jesus in the Eastern Church this feast is almost as important as Christmas. Even in the West, it was traditionally called "Little Christmas". Only Saint Matthew informs us of the events of "little Christmas". He does not actually state the number of the Magi or Wise Men but we deduce it from the number of gifts: gold frankincense and myrrh. Because of the richness of those gifts the Magi are often referred to as "kings". The word "Magi" has an Iranian or Persian root and it referred to a class of professional men, who were concerned about the influence of the stars on human conduct. They had observed a new constellation and they travel westward to find the child whose star they had seen. In the ancient world new heavenly phenomena were thought to herald the arrival of a famed personage.

Luke, the other New Testament author with an infancy account, had certain emphases: the poor; the role of women; the primacy of prayer. Matthew too had certain priorities. He was probably writing originally for a Christian community, composed of people from both Jewish and Gentile (non-Jewish) backgrounds. He is anxious to illustrate that Jesus is the long expected Messiah of the Jews. Throughout his Gospel, Matthew quotes Old Testament prophecies that touched on the arrival of the long-awaited Messiah. Yet Matthew also wishes to indicate that this Child draws all people, who seek wisdom and the truth. The New-Born is a "light of revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people, Israel." (Luke 2:32)

Except for gold, the gifts had little practical value for a peasant couple and their Child. But the gifts are mentioned because of their symbolic value. The gifts indicate a great amount about the identity of this Child.

Gold has a royal significance. It was worthy of a king and so Matthew is telling us that this Boy is a king. Frankincense was and still is used in liturgical ceremonies. It had several functions. Symbolically it represented our prayers rising like incense before God. Practically its aroma drowned out baser odors. Matthew tells us the incense indicates Jesus' divine status. Finally though touched by the Divine, this Child is fully human. Among other things, to be human means to be born and to die. Myrrh was used preserve the bodies of the deceased and to mask unpleasant odors. The gifts and their bearers indicate something about this Child. He is sought by the wise. He is a king. He is divine but also human.

Matthew's Infancy account speaks of our yearning for divine purpose and meaning in life; it speaks of our willingness to make the quest to pursue that yearning by following the signs observed and felt. The end of the quest is our prostration before a God, Who is manifest among us as a helpless Child: a God Who will not impose on us but gently draws like the innocent loving smile of an infant.

We believe that God shows Himself to us in the humanity of that Baby. He is the light that people still seek and then at the end of their quest they rejoice. They cannot contain the Good News of God's love - the Wise Men begin to spread the good news even in the palace of Herod! On this Epiphany Sunday, we are again overwhelmed by the magnificence of God's love for us. Having found the Star we must return to our own place and like the Wise Men spread the Good News.

**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.

**DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE**

January 09, 2019	Divine Mercy Cenacle	6:30pm
January 16, 2019	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament	7:00pm
	Divine Mercy Chaplet - 7:30pm	Benediction - 8:00pm
January 23, 2019	Divine Mercy Devotion	6:30pm
January 30, 2019	Divine Mercy Cenacle	6:30pm

**HEALING MASSES**

On June 3, 2007 Pope Benedict XVI elevated a humble priest, a Passionist named Charles Heuben, to the status of saint.

St. Charles was one of the very few Catholic saints who performed miracles during the course of their lifetime. In fact, his miracles were so numerous that the medical doctors in his vicinity joined forces to have him transferred out of the country.

On Sunday, November 25, 2018, the Passionist priests initiated the first in a series of healing Masses at the Immaculate Conception Monastery at 86-45 Edgerton Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11432 (718-739-6502). These Masses will serve to honor St. Charles and are dedicated to those who are sick and suffering (from whom no monetary donations will be requested or accepted on those specific occasions). In the future, with the assistance and cooperation of generous third parties, we hope to offer, not only spiritual, but also financial, social, and legal aid to the sick following these Masses.

The Masses will take place at 2:15pm on the third Sunday of each month and all are invited to attend. St. Charles, no doubt, will confer his blessings on those present, and he may even offer a miracle or two (as he did at his shrine, for example, in Dublin, Ireland in the recent past).

**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.

**SAVE THE DATE**

The next Blood Drive here at OLM will take place on Sunday, February 24th, 2019 from 8:45am to 2:45pm. Please mark your calendars and consider taking part in this very worthy cause.

**LET'S HAVE ANOTHER CUP OF COFFEE!**

Need a coffee break? Need another cup of tea? We have them for you.

We still have some coffee and tea for your buying pleasure.

Call the Rectory. Tell us whether you want ground coffee or k-cup, flavored or regular and we will have your order ready for pick-up the same day.

The Church gets 40% back for every bag or box we sell (that's approximately \$5.00 per item sold). Monies raised help defray some of the cost of needed repairs and cost of the 90<sup>th</sup> Gala Celebration of the founding of our Parish.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

**The Gospel According to Puppets!** The puppets are back. They will teach the Gospel at the Children's Liturgy during the 10 AM Mass on **Jan. 6 2019**. This age-appropriate version of the readings and Gospel is geared to toward children up to fourth grade and parents are welcome. Noisy and wiggly kids particularly welcome. **Children's Liturgy is scheduled for the following dates: 1/6, & 1/13.**

**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)

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS**

**We always need food to re-stock the shelves.** Some suggestions are: tuna fish, canned stews, hash, or Spam, Chef Boyardee, powdered or Parmalat milk, jelly, rice, canned or packaged soups, packets of pasta & rice "Sides", canned fruits, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, cookies, toothpaste, bathroom tissue, soaps, shampoos, and any other personal hygiene and non-perishable food items.

**OLMCA NEWS**

Please help support our Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy by bringing in your Box Tops! Box Tops are easy to find—you may already have them around your house! Each Box Top is worth 10 cents—Bonus Box Tops can be worth even more! Please see the attached list of participating brands and products. Just clip the little Box Tops, and have your child submit them to his or her teacher. This year, you may use the collection sheets to submit Box Tops, for easier counting by the Coordinators

# Community News

- **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.

**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 held in the rectory, and facilitated by Commissioned Lay Pastoral Leader, Yorke Mizelle. Call the OLQM rectory at 718-268-6251 if interested in attending or more info, email [ymizelle@nyc.rr.com](mailto:ymizelle@nyc.rr.com). Remaining meetings for this year are scheduled for Dec.3 & 17.

**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.**

**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

**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

**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 to help you be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. Please contact David or Carol Powell at 718-261-6285.

**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!

