

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	March 23rd
8:30 AM	Christine Staco
5:00 PM	Giancarlo A. Mayor, Ruben Mayor, & Graciela Dominguez
Sunday	March 24th
8:30 AM	George Stahl
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Rose Marie Tinschert
5:00 PM	Maria Genna
Monday	March 25th
8:30 AM	May Chocko
12:00 PM	Jillian Lambert
Tuesday	March 26th
8:30 AM	_____
12:00 PM	_____
Wednesday	March 27th
8:30 AM	_____
12:00 PM	Michael, & Caroline Sassi, Michael Sassi Jr., and Roland Pugliese
Thursday	March 28th
8:30 AM	Josef Grebowiec
12:00 PM	Christine Staco
Friday	March 29th
8:30 AM	_____
12:00 PM	Bruce Brodney
Saturday	March 30th
8:30 AM	Claire Scott
5:00 PM	Tonino Tollis
Sunday	March 31st
8:30 AM	Jean Striffler
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Jack Bernardone
5:00 PM	Giovanna Bambina

**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, Januz Miedoej, Anthony Mendola, Peggy Racanelli, Adam Martini, Joan Minischetti, Frances Galson, Irma Early, Loretta Brogna, Joseph Hennessy, Nicolina LoRusso, Michael Simo, Sr. Pat Jamison, CND, Carol Flaherty, R. Peggy (Kathryn) Walsh, C.S.J., James McWalters, 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, 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

Deacon Andres de la Rosa
John Wales
Mrs. Carol Reichert

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – March 24th**

Third Sunday of Lent

- Children's Liturgy-10:00am Mass
- Lenten Soup Luncheon-Parish Hall at 1:00pm

MONDAY – March 25th

The Annunciation of the Lord

- Scripture Study-Rectory at 7:30pm

TUESDAY - March 26th

Lenten Weekday

- Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY – March 27th

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 3:00pm
- Divine Mercy-Church at 7:00pm

THURSDAY – March 28th

Lenten Weekday

- CCD 6th & 7th Gr.-School at 4:00pm
- Boy Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

FRIDAY – March 29th

Lenten Weekday

- Stations of The Cross-Church at 9:00am
- Girl Scouts-Parish Hall at 6:00pm

SATURDAY – March 30th

Lenten 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:**

Douglas R. Smith & Andrew Carlson

by

Robin Carlson

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;

The problem of evil is central to today's Gospel reading. Jesus is presented with two tragic disasters. Worshippers were slaughtered by order of the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, while they were sacrificing in the Temple. Their blood mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. No reason is given for Pilate's action but apparently the victims were innocent of any wrong doing. The second was a physical disaster. Apparently a tower had collapsed in the City of Jerusalem and the falling debris killed eighteen people. The tradition at Jesus' time often viewed such events as evidence of God's displeasure. Throughout His ministry Jesus struggled to shift the focus. God does not do this sort of thing for revenge. The victims in Jerusalem were no worse sinners than anyone else then or now. However Jesus does warn that, if we do not respond to God's grace, we will perish.

Jesus goes on to compare God to a patient gardener. The gardener watches the tree and takes care of it so that it will bloom. The tree is given more time to blossom; likewise, each day is an extension for us in which to prosper.

Where is God in the face of human suffering, whether man-made or caused by natural disasters? Where was He on Good Friday? If Jesus' suffering led to final death, then it would be a great tragedy. A good innocent man is crushed by the powers of death and evil.

How-ever Easter proclaims that the God of life intends us to have a fuller, more brilliant life which is the completion or full blossoming of our earthly lives. In the suffering and death of Jesus, God was in the midst of human suffering. He was united to His Word, Who is Christ. Jesus' cross and our own sufferings are real. They cannot be discarded or underestimated; nevertheless, they do not have the final word. The God, Who speaks through His Word, Jesus, assures us of life beyond anything we can imagine. In that context we are able to bear human suffering though we may continue to have questions. In this life a completely satisfactory answer evades us. Even Jesus from the cross cried out: "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?". Easter was the Father's answer. He has not abandoned Jesus or us.

"Sir, leave it (the unresponsive tree) for this year also and I (the Lord Jesus) shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it so that it may bear fruit in the future".

Lent offers us the opportunity to "bear fruit". Most folks have favorite charities that rely on our generous contributions. This Sunday, we will have another opportunity at the Soup Luncheon following the 1:00 P.M. Mass. What we save on a noonday meal will be donated to the Little Sisters of the Poor for their work among the elderly at Queen of Peace Residence in Queens Village.

Yearly the Diocese offers us an opportunity to "bear fruit" in *The Annual Catholic Appeal*. Our Brooklyn (&Queens) Diocese is a family of 1,500,000 Catholics in 186 parishes. We are small in territory - only 180 square miles. We consist of the two counties of Kings (Brooklyn) and Queens. Once we extended to Montauk Point but since 1957 we are only those two City Boroughs.

This year the Goal of the *Appeal* is \$8,000,000. The \$8,000,000 is earmarked in the following manner: \$2,700,000 will be used to support the efforts of our Catholic Academies and our Faith Formation Programs; \$2,500,000 will be utilized to support the efforts of the Vocation Office as well as for the support of our major seminarians (the four post-collegiate years of study) and our college seminarians; and \$2,100,000 will be used by Catholic Charities for their many ministries as well as for the work of the Catholic Migration Office. The final \$700,000 will be used to support the Catholic chaplaincy programs in our high schools, colleges, prisons and hospitals.

The goal mandated by the Diocese for our parish is \$77,254. This is a reduction from previous years. If we exceed that goal (and with the exception of one year in the last thirteen, we have always exceeded it!), the funds raised beyond our goal will be returned to the parish. The funds raised cannot be used for any other purposes than those stated.

In our parish, the funds returned from both *The Generations of Faith Campaign* and the *Annual Catholic Appeals* have permitted us to make repairs that ordinarily we might not have been able to afford. More are to come.

After more than fifty years, the wooden windows of our school building have become unsightly. They are in poor condition and will require repair, caulking and painting or else replacement. The rear windows of the school were replaced about six years ago.

We are in an ongoing struggle with the City Department of Transportation and the City Parks' Department to replace one tree on 70th Avenue that had raised the sidewalk to a dangerous degree. The roots of the City trees located between the sidewalks and the curbs are gradually raising the level of the parish sidewalks. Even if eventually we receive the cooperation of the City (you are not allowed to alter or cut those trees without City permission), the cost of replacing the sidewalks will be considerable.

At the end of the winter we can expect that, as always, some of the tiles on the Church roof will have fallen.

The Church air-conditioning units are also in need of repair or replacement.

Though not a primary consideration, the windows of the rectory are in need of paint as are those of the convent building.

Our normal collections and the parish reserve (\$650,000) will barely be able to cover these projected expenses; therefore, we desperately need the returns from the *Annual Catholic Appeal*. Presently we can expect about \$125,000 more from *The Generation of Faith Campaign* (if all the pledges are honored). This plus any amount exceeding the goal of the *Annual Catholic Appeal*, will prevent us from touching our meager reserves. Your help is essential.

We have another Lent in which to grow in faith and charity. Please answer the call of your parish and your Diocese.

Faithfully,
Monsignor McGuirl

SAVE THE DATE

It's not too early to make note in your calendars of an important date coming up. You are not going to want to miss Our Lady of Mercy's Gala Dinner Dance, at the Immaculate Conception Center on **October 6th, 2019**, to officially begin our 90th Anniversary Year of celebration. Watch the bulletin for more information as the planning continues, but make sure **reserve that day**.

**EASTER FLOWERS**

As we did at Christmas, we are providing an opportunity for families to memorialize a loved one by making a donation of \$150.00 for Easter flowers. Names of all those memorialized will be published in our Bulletin, and flowers will remain on the altar and in Church for at least 3 weeks. Each donation will help us provide flowering plants for our altar and church decor. Help make this Easter magnificent! Arrangements can be made by contacting the Rectory Office at 718-268-6143.

DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

March 27, 2019	Divine Mercy Cenacle	6:30pm
April 03, 2019	Divine Mercy Devotion	6:30pm
April 10, 2019	Divine Mercy Cenacle	6:30pm
April 17, 2019	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament	7:00pm
	Divine Mercy Chaplet-7:30pm	Benediction-8:00pm
April 24, 2019	Divine Mercy Devotion	6:30pm
April 28, 2019	DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY	
	Eucharistic Adoration-1:30pm	Benediction 3:00pm
	Fellowship /refreshment follows in Parish Hall	

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, paper towels, bathroom tissue, soaps, shampoos, and any other personal hygiene and non-perishable food items.

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.

**LENTEN SOUP LUNCHEON**

Our Lenten "Soup Luncheon" will be held TODAY, Sunday March 24, 2019 at 1:00pm in the Parish Hall. Together we share a simple meal and express our care for our needier brothers and sisters. This year's guest speaker will be from the Little Sisters of the Poor. The Little Sisters of the Poor are an international congregation of Roman Catholic women religious founded in 1839 by Saint Jeanne Jugan. Together with a diverse network of collaborators, they serve the elderly poor in over 30 countries around the world. Continuing the work of Saint Jeanne Jugan, their **MISSION** is to offer the neediest elderly of every race and religion a home where they will be welcomed as Christ, cared for as family and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to Himself. Proceeds from the Soup Luncheon will benefit these ministries. Through our simple sharing of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we can make Soup Luncheon 2019 a living witness to our care for the larger world.

OLM JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE

You are invited to join in our 90th Jubilee Pilgrimage to the Holy Land which will take place February 1st thru the 9th, 2020. This journey, following the footsteps of Jesus, should greatly influence the way you read the Bible, the way you live, and the way you understand the Church. Detailed fliers are available at all church entrances.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Gospel According to Puppets! The puppets will teach the Gospel at the Children's Liturgy during the 10 AM Mass. This age-appropriate version of the readings and Gospel is geared 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: 3/24, 3/31.

HEART TO HEART MINISTRY

For many years, Sister Ave Clark, O.P. has run *The Heart to Heart Ministry* in our Diocese. Sister offers various opportunities for parish retreats, days of recollection, and evenings or afternoons of reflection. Recently her address has changed. If you would like to obtain a copy of Sister's Spring...Summer Brochure...2019, please contact her at:

Sister Ave Clark, O.P.
Heart to Heart Ministry
48-60 Oceania Street
Bayside, NY, 11364.

Sister's telephone number is: 718-428-2471.
Her Email is: Pearlbud7@aol.com and her Website is: anextratablespoonoflove.blogspot.com

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. Scheduled meeting dates are Mar. 24. Spring meeting dates are April 1 & 15, May 6 & 20, June 3 & 17. If interested in attending, please call the rectory or for questions, please email the group's facilitator, Commissioned Lay Pastoral Leader Yorke Mizelle, at ymizelle@nyc.rr.com.
- **Maggie's Little Theater at St. Margaret Parish** (66- 05 79th Place, Middle Village) presents "Noises Off." Performances Friday March 29 @ 8 p.m., Sundays March 24, 31 @ 2:30 p.m. Tickets online at www.maggieslittletheater.org. \$20 adults, \$18 seniors and children under age 11.

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.
- **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.
- **Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish** (7201 15th Ave., Brooklyn) will be hosting a once in a lifetime **exposition of Sacred Relics** on March 26th at 7:00pm. Father Carlos Martins of the Companions of the Cross will be at the church with a very special collection of over 150 relics, some as old as 2000years. For more info please call the Rectory office at 718-236-8300.
- **Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish**(83-17 78th Ave., Glendale, 718-821-6434) welcomes your parish community to a teaching and exposition of Sacred Relics on Monday, April 8th. Over 150 relics will be present, some as old as 2,000 years. There will be a presentation by Fr. Carlos from 7-8 PM in the church, followed by public Veneration of Relics from 8-10 PM in the church basement
- Join the **37th Annual Pax Christi Metro New York Way of the Cross on April 19th at 8:30am** on 47th St. & 1st Ave.(Dag Hammarskjold Plaza) to the vicinity of the Holy Cross Church (42nd St. bet. 8th & 9th Ave The Good Friday Way of the Cross is a modern day enactment of the Stations of the Cross, praying for peace and justice on the streets of our city. Please wear or carry a cross.

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.

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

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!

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.**

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

