

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday April 6th
 8:30 AM Theo Yap Amaya
 5:00 PM John Daly

Sunday April 7th
 8:30 AM Raymond Cleary
 10:00 AM Parish Mass
 12:00 PM Ervin Dudas
 5:00 PM Mara/Brady Families

Monday April 8th
 8:30 AM Hugh & Mary McGovern
 12:00 PM Anne Rigby (Living Intention) Birthday

Tuesday April 9th
 8:30 AM John Graham McGinley
 12:00 PM Dumitru Ardelean

Wednesday April 10th
 8:30 AM Lureen Brennan (Living Intention)
 12:00 PM Jean Striffler

Thursday April 11th
 8:30 AM Joseph DiCapua & BiFalco & DiCapua Families
 12:00 PM Hilda Voegel (1st Anniversary)

Friday April 12th
 8:30 AM Feliksa Chocko
 12:00 PM Ernst Walter

Saturday April 13th
 8:30 AM Deceased Members of the Szabados Family
 5:00 PM Mary Ann Oweremohle

Sunday April 14th
 8:30 AM Elzbieta Anchev
 10:00 AM Parish Mass
 12:00 PM Peggy O'Neill Fennelly
 5:00 PM Mara/Butler Families



PRAY FOR THE SICK

Robert & Mary Tardona, Alice Coleman, Isabel Azzaro, Richard Eisenzopf, Bonnie Nisson, Rebecca Mintz, Lewis Stein, Peter Fulchiron, Diane 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, James McWalters, Ann Dauria, 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

Carol McDonald

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

SUNDAY – April 7th
Fifth Sunday of Lent
 -Breakfast With the Easter Bunny

MONDAY – April 8th
Lenten Weekday
 -Forest Hills Civic Association Meeting-Parish Hall at 7:30pm
 -Scripture Study-Rectory at 7:30pm

TUESDAY - April 9th
Lenten Weekday
 -OLMCA Spring Concert-Parish Hall at 1:30pm
 -Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY – April 10th
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-Rectory at 6:30pm

THURSDAY – April 11th
Lenten Weekday
 -CCD 6th & 7th Gr.-School at 4:00pm
 -Boy Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

FRIDAY – April 12th
Lenten Weekday
 -Stations of The Cross-Outside at 2:00pm

SATURDAY – April 13th
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:**
Hilda & Stanley Moss
 by
 Carolyn Moss



MEMORIAL WORSHIP FUND

Many thanks for donations to the Parish Memorial Worship fund given in memory of:
"Coach Graham"
 by
 Omar & Ali Saab

Dear Parishioners;

I have read that this Sunday's Gospel has had a confused history. Some ancient manuscripts do not include it; others have it as part of St. Luke's Gospel. Nowadays it is included where we find it - in St. John's Gospel. Why this confused history of the story of Jesus and the woman caught in adultery? Some have suggested that the story became an embarrassment as the early Church began to enact rather severe penances for those, who had fallen away. The present practice of the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation) pales in comparison with the penances of the early Church. This story may have been an embarrassment because Jesus seems soft on sin.

Last week we heard the story of the Prodigal Son. The father in that parable is the icon of God; a God Who is more than willing to welcome us back into His family life. Jesus illustrates the forgiving nature of God in an event from His ministry.

The modern reader should keep several items in mind. In ancient times in Judea, a woman who was divorced or shunned by her family or husband did not have many options available. There was always domestic service if she could find it. If she was extremely skilled in some domestic art, she might be able to make a living at sewing or washing for others. Beyond this or immediate remarriage there was very little. Perhaps this woman was in a desperate situation and thus had entered prostitution. If she was apprehended in an act of adultery, we must ask where was the other party. It takes two people, a man and a woman, to commit adultery - where was the man? Our Lord would have been familiar with the social mores. Even today, ladies who work as prostitutes are far more likely to be arrested than the gentlemen who seek their services.

Again Jesus is in a confrontation with the scribes and the Pharisees. These were the folks, who prided themselves with their rigorous fulfillment of the Law of Moses, (the Torah). In that law, adultery was punishable by death. In this instance, it seems the scribes and Pharisees could have cared less about the fate of the woman taken in adultery; they are far more interested in trapping our Lord with His own words. They ask Jesus His opinion on the Mosaic Law, which required death by stoning for adulterers. If Jesus agreed with the Law, He would have been seen as contradicting His characteristic merciful forgiveness. If on the other hand, He took issue with the Law, He would be placing Himself in much the same position as the woman - a public breaker of the Law.

Jesus was ready for them. He begins to write in the thin dust on the ground. What was he writing? Moses received the written Law on the two Tablets given by God on Mount Sinai. Is Jesus indicating a new written Law? When He straightens up, He invites the person without sin to throw the first stone at the adulterous woman. Then He bends down again and continues to write in the dust. Perhaps the latter action was to permit the onlookers to save face by walking away unobserved. In fact, beginning with the elders (who had longer lives and therefore more time to commit sin!) the crowd disperses.

Yet it is not "cheap grace" that is offered. When alone with the woman, Jesus asks if there was no one left to condemn her. Receiving a negative answer, Jesus tells the woman: "Neither do I condemn you. (But) Go now and sin no more." (John 8:11). As in the story of the Prodigal Son, a change is expected. The woman is not condemned; rather, she is forgiven but she is to sin no more.

This event from Jesus' public ministry is an illustration of God's intentions toward us. Jesus is God's Word; He is God's communication to us. Every word Jesus spoke or every action He performed are those of God working through the medium of Jesus' humanity. The woman is forgiven by God, so are we! But forgiveness requires a change of heart. The woman is challenged to "sin no more" and so are we.

Finally, as I have stressed often in both the pulpit and these pages, forgiving (non-condemning) does not in and of itself mean forgetting. By nature God remembers everything. Jesus could not forgive something He had forgotten! In this instance He knew what the woman had done and yet He forgave her sin. As in this case, forgiving means pushing the offense aside. Then the healing can begin as we seek to renew the relationship with God by sinning no more.

The words of assurance in today's Gospel are spoken not only to the woman taken in adultery but also to us. They are good to remember especially during this season of Lent.

In Christ,
Monsignor McGuirl

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 April 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.
- The Senior Goal Group of **Our Lady of Hope** will be sponsoring a **"Young at Heart Spring Social on May 5th** from 2:00pm to 6:00pm. Tickets are \$20 and include a hot buffet and live music. Those wishing to attend are asked to contact Diana & Robert (718-335-2999), Phyllis (718-478-4741) or Linda (718-898-3222) in advance. **Tickets will not be sold at the door.**
- **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
- Through the generosity of the Knights of Columbus and the **"Heart of a Priest" relic tour**, the clergy and faithful of the Brooklyn Diocese will have an **opportunity to venerate the incorruptible heart of St. John Vianney** at: Cathedral Prep Seminary, Elmhurst on April 9th. Relic will be available for veneration 10:00am to 2:30pm, and Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Sanchez at 10:30am. In addition, on the same day, at Immaculate Conception Center, Douglaston 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Veneration and 5:30 p.m. Mass with Bishop Chappetto. For more information, please contact Fr. Michael L. Gelfant, 718-236-3312. On social, visit #HeartofaPriest

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.
- Join the **Way of the Cross over the Brooklyn Bridge** on **April 19th at 10:00am**. Participants will congregate for the first station at St. James Cathedral, Brooklyn. The final station will be at St. Peter's Church, on Barclay Street, concluding at 1:30pm. For more info, please call Communion and Liberation at 212-337-3580..
- The **Monsignor McClancy Memorial High School** (72-02 31st Ave., East Elmhurst, 718-898-3800) **drama society** will be presenting the musical **"Oliver"**, in the school's auditorium, on April 11th, 12th, & 13th at 7:00pm. General admission is \$15; Seniors & Children under 12yrs. are \$12..For more info call 718-898-3800 ext.2.

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

