

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	August 17th
8:30 AM	Nellie & Maurice Rooney
5:00 PM	Geraldine Corvi
Sunday	August 18th
8:30 AM	Richard Hunt
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Mr. & Mrs. T. Connolly
5:00 PM	Louis & Eddie Tosi (Van Nostrand)
Monday	August 19th
8:30 AM	Ezio Bottacchi
12:00 PM	Gohn Cassis
Tuesday	August 20th
8:30 AM	Henry Jagiello
12:00 PM	Joseph Cutrone
Wednesday	August 21st
8:30 AM	Terence McKinney
12:00 PM	Terence McKinney
Thursday	August 22nd
8:30 AM	Louis & Pauline Pfohl
12:00 PM	Antonia Genna
Friday	August 23rd
8:30 AM	Anastasia Casimir
12:00 PM	Charlie Altadonna
Saturday	August 24th
8:30 AM	Konrad Sumprer
5:00 PM	Aracelly Perez
Sunday	August 25th
8:30 AM	James Pfohl
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Gilberto Hernandez
5:00 PM	John & Mary Camporese

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Robert & Mary Tardona, Alice Coleman, Isabel Azzaro, Richard Eisenzopf, Bonnie Nisson, Rebecca Mintz, Lewis Stein, Diane McGinley, Mary Albert, Maureen Medina, Stan Spence, John Karkheck, Jack Fruhling, Januz Miedoej, Anthony Mendola, Peggy Racanelli, Adam Martini, Irma Early, Loretta Brogna, Joseph Hennessy, Nicolina LoRusso, Michael Simo, James McWalters, Ann Dauria, Kathy Kudrick, Sean Tierney, Frank Santulli, Alexandra Radziwon, Don Feder, James Leung, Phil Paroff, Annette Merone, Mary Anne Whatley, Eleanor Merlino, Steve Nacincik, Michael Stasiak, Pia Parham, Beth Friedman, Anthony Mendola, Felipe Vallejo, Fr August Iantosca, John Hughes, Thomas Hughes, Robert Colonello, Elly Gilday, 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, SCSC 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 – August 18th**

Twentieth Sunday In Ordinary Time

-Blood Drive-Parish Hall from 8:45am to 2:45pm

MONDAY – August 19th

Weekday

TUESDAY - August 20th

Saint Bernard, Abbott & Doctor of the Church

WEDNESDAY – August 21st

Saint Pius X, Pope

-Exercise Class-Parish Hall at 8:30

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

THURSDAY – August 22nd

The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

FRIDAY – August 23rd

Weekday

SATURDAY – August 24th

Saint Bartholomew, Apostle

**If you are not yet registered in the Parish,
please stop into the Rectory Office for a Census Form
Mon. thru Fri. 9am-4pm, Sat. 9am-2pm**

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Many thanks for this week's flower donation given in **loving memory of:**
Catherine Visconti
by
Mary Visconti

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

We still have many Masses and Memorials available for your intentions between now and the end of the year. Mass intentions can be for the living as well as the deceased, or for a "Special Intention, or as a Mass "in thanksgiving". Please visit the Rectory Offices to make your requests so that we can try to fill up this year before opening the 2020 book. Thank You.

Please do not leave bags of clothing or other items on the steps of the Rectory.

Dear Parishioners;

Fire is a multivalent symbol in both the Old and the New Testament. It was a pillar of fire that symbolized the divine Presence when the people were wandering in the Sinai desert. The wrath of God also was portrayed as a fiery or raging fire. In the New Testament, on the first Pentecost, the Holy Spirit rushes on the disciples in the form of tongues of fire. Fire has both a destructive and purifying element. Even now impurities are burned out of metals in order to make them strong and pure. Such it is in religious faith.

In the first reading, Jeremiah has run into a good deal of trouble because he prophesied what the political and religious leadership did not wish to hear: that their foreign alliances were going to lead to the collapse of the kingdom of Judah. Who wants to hear that? So Jeremiah is imprisoned. Because of the compassion of one court official Jeremiah was freed from the cistern in which he had been dropped, but unfortunately for the Kingdom of Judah, his prophecy comes true. Babylon captures the City of Jerusalem. It was not easy being a prophet. In fact at the beginning of his book, Jeremiah even derides God by protesting that: "You duped me, you fooled me". It might have seemed so.

But all prophets suffered for the truth, often truth in the face of power. The author of The Letter to the Hebrews, from which our second reading comes, reviews Our Lord's suffering. Jesus endured opposition which led to the cross; now, He has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Like runners in a track race, we may have to endure suffering, as Jesus did, in order to obtain the laurel of victory. We have encouragement from our Lord's suffering and also from the cheering folks on the sidelines: "surrounded by so great a crowd of witnesses". The witnesses are those, now in the divine Presence, who have completed their race and crossed the finish line.

Going back to the image of fire, Jesus proclaims in today's Gospel from St. Luke that He has come to bring fire on the earth. There are many symbolic references here. The most obvious is His longing for the fire of the Holy Spirit, which will be ignited in His disciples on Pentecost and, through them, will refine and purify His people. Jesus mentions His baptism. The original idea of Baptism was to be immersed or plunged into something like the water of a bath. The baptism Jesus anticipates is His passion and death. But His Resurrection will ignite the fire among His followers. Jesus also warns them of some of the consequences. Acceptance of his kingdom may turn family members against each other. Here St. Luke is probably reflecting on the reality in the early Christian community for which he first wrote.

Prophecy and discipleship are not often easy. Like a race they involve self-discipline and exertion. They involve confronting the powers of darkness, be they societal, or in the recesses of our own hearts and minds. The "crowd of witnesses" cheers us on to join them at the finish line. The goal is the gift of life, the full blossoming of life in the Father's Presence. The price may be great but the finish is extraordinary!

In Christ
 Monsignor McGuirl

Profound Thanks

Due to your great generosity we have far exceeded our goal in the Annual Catholic Appeal. Though they prefer anonymity, it is only proper to give thanks to the members of a local foundation, which this year as in many in the past, permitted us to sail well beyond the finish line. Without their generosity we might not have attained the goal, no less expect that \$24,000 dollars would be returned to the parish. That return will help us to complete many of the summer repairs. Similarly a word of thanks to those, who completed or are in the process of completing their pledges to *The Generations of Faith Campaign*. Already approximately a hundred thousand dollars has been refunded to the parish for local projects. Here too we exceeded the goal. Against a diocesan-determined goal of \$770,000, our wonderful parishioners pledged \$1,130, 472. When completed this will generate over \$200,000 for the parish. However the funds are not sent in bulk; rather, we must submit receipts or estimates for work to be done for the funds to be released.

This brings me to my second point. Some of the money released from *Generations of Faith* had to be utilized to pay ordinary expenses. Many of you own homes or co-ops, so you know what it is to face a pile of bills every week. Our parish does brilliantly in the special campaigns but unfortunately the every-day expenses are met with funds from the weekly collections. And there we are limping.

The Diocese is beginning an Increased Giving Initiative. They have asked us to be a pilot parish. The idea is not a bad one. I am loathe to spend the limited time we have with each other each week discussing finances. The pulpit time is meant to be an exposition of the Scriptures as they apply to our lives. Twice a year is money ever discussed from our pulpit, usually in conjunction with some Diocesan Appeal. Some have criticized me for not doing more of this. I do not like to hammer people about this, especially since the financial circumstances are very different from family to family. While it is generally acknowledged that we live in lovely upscale neighborhood that does not mean that some of our parishioners and neighbors are struggling to get by.

Nonetheless, if we wish to have a parish here, the standard things must be financed. Our accountants project a deficit of \$152,000 next year. This is not good but unfortunately it seems to be the usual in many parishes. Our ordinary expenses include lighting, heating of all of our buildings and also the summer air-conditioning of the Church. Add to this taxes: FICA, Social Security and the Water Tax. We are responsible for these taxes as much as anyone running a "business" that has employees. The only tax from which we and all non-profits are exempt is the real estate tax. Thank God for this because were it applied, our parish and virtually all others would close quickly. I have reduced our staff to a bare minimal but in fairness people must be paid for their time, energy and talent. In several cases, health insurance and other benefits are attached to those salaries. The deacon is the least expensive part of the operation - he is not paid! Your priests are next lowest in terms of salary; however, in fairness, our residence is provided by the parish but of course like any home it must be maintained.

(Cont'd from p.3)

In addition to all this, medical insurance, where applicable will probably rise from about \$9,600 to \$12,900 a year. The Diocesan assessment will rise from 11% on regular income (the collections) to 13%; the insurance bills paid to Parish Service Corporation, including liability insurance may increase as much as 20%. We are behind in payments for some of these items for the 2018/19 Fiscal year.

To top it off, the Diocese would like every parish to budget for a new Deferred Maintenance Account which is estimated as 10% of Sunday collection. Our Sunday collections rarely top \$7,500 per week which means at best we will only be putting \$750 per week aside. Gratefully, this summer we have been able to handle some of the deferred maintenance in terms of the church air-conditioning and the restoration of the Academy windows.

As mentioned, I am fully aware that each family in our parish has different circumstances. Your next door neighbor may be in a reality very different from yours. I know that and I appreciate it. This is one of the of the reasons that I am loathe to harp on money matters. But please do realize that to ride the subway or bus one way in our City costs almost three dollars. A round-trip to Manhattan will cost about \$5.50. If you prefer to travel with a greater degree of comfort and use the Long Island Railroad from Forest Hills to Penn Station, even in off-peak hours for a senior like me, the fourteen minute trip will cost over twice the subway fare. If you have not broken a smoking habit yet, a carton of cigarettes is almost \$100 and a decent small bottle of Scotch will cost about \$25 depending on the brand.

Many folks who worship with us do not use Parish-Pay or the parish envelopes. There is a tendency to drop that spare dollar in the collection basket. A dollar has the buying power of a dime about thirty years ago! It will not be sufficient.

I use the parish envelopes and usually contribute \$10.00 per week for parish collections and then make a determination about the "second collections". I must challenge myself with the question, we all have to ask: "Is that enough? Should I be doing more to preserve our common house of worship, our family home, our parish? That's our challenge as we begin the new scholastic and fiscal years.

God bless you,
Monsignor McGuirl

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
"MADAMA BUTTERFLY"

Opera Fundraiser for Our Lady of Mercy
Saturday 9/28/19 at 7:30 PM

As part of our year long celebration of Our Lady of Mercy's 90th Anniversary, **Golden Rose Opera** presents a semi-staged concert performance (with orchestra and English subtitles) of Giacomo Puccini's epic and achingly beautiful "MADAMA BUTTERFLY" on Saturday, September 28, 2019 at 7:30 PM right here in the sanctuary at Our Lady of Mercy Church. This is a fundraiser for Our Lady of Mercy Church, and General Admission tickets are \$20.

Please see ticket order flyers in the church for purchase information.

OLM's 90th ANNIVERSARY MASS AND GALA
EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Monsignor John McGuirl and Father Gregory Stasiak invite one and all to celebrate the joyous start of our beloved parish's 90th year of faith and love "MANTLE OF MERCY -90 YEARS WIDE" on **Sunday October 6, 2019**. The celebration starts with the **12:00 PM Commemorative Mass** with Bishop DiMarzio followed by a **Gala Dinner Dance** at the Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston from **3:00 to 8:00 PM**, with additional round trip bus service available from the church to the gala. The Gala will be an elegant cocktail hour, 5 hour open bar, sit down dinner and great music spanning all our decades. To make reservations for the gala and for round trip bus service, please contact the rectory. Invitation flyers and posters are also in the church and on our website.

For **additional information** regarding seating, etc., please contact Helen Van Tine-Golden at 718-793-2033, or the Rectory at 718-268-6143 We hope to see **EVERYONE** there



BLOOD DRIVE

**Our Lady of Mercy blood drive on Sunday, Aug 18th
from 8:45am to 2:45pm, in the Parish Hall.**

A blood donor is a special kind of volunteer. One donation of blood can help save up to three patients' lives. Long Island Blood Services provides blood services to hospitals throughout Long Island. We are fortunate to live in a region where sophisticated medical facilities and transplant programs are available. These programs require many blood donations. When there is not enough blood, patients wait for the blood they need, delaying their recovery. Patients who are weak from low iron wait for red cells; patients whose bodies have been assaulted by chemotherapy wait for platelets that will allow their blood to clot again. Patients who have been on an organ transplant list for months or years and finally get an opportunity for an organ will lose that opportunity if there is no blood available.

All types of blood are needed. If you do not know your blood type, you will learn what type you are after your donation.

Before you donate: Drink plenty of fluids before you donate; Don't forget to eat a good meal before you donate. Don't skip breakfast

Bring your donor ID card or your donor ID number and a photo ID. If this is your first time donating insure that you have a photo ID. An appointment is not necessary.

The Parish Hall will be air conditioned. A nice place to be on an August Sunday.

Walk-ins are always welcome and bring a friend.

Thank you

GOING ON VACATION?

Please do not forget to support your parish. We are most grateful for our parishioners who “catch up” or give donations in advance to compensate for the times that they will be away. Since our expenses for maintaining the Parish don't take a vacation, it truly does help, and we 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 in need of the sacraments of 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.

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



- **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.
- On **Sunday September 8, 2019** all are invited to attend the **Fr. Mychal Judge 911 Walk of Remembrance** in NYC. Held each year on the Sunday before 9/11 the walk commemorates the life of Fr. Mychal Judge and all those lost on that devastating day. Following in his footsteps as Fire Department Chaplain, the walk retraces the route Fr. Mychal took from his residence at St. Francis of Assisi(135 W. 31 Street, NYC) to the twin towers. Stops will be made along the way to honor FDNY & NYPD and all victims of the day will be remembered.

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.

**OLM CATHOLIC ACADEMY
NEEDS OUR HELP**

In just a few short weeks, students will be returning to school after the summer break. We want to ensure that all our students are armed with the tools to learn, make friends, and flourish. As we have done in the past, we are once again asking if you could please **consider donating school supplies** to our Academy to be used by all of the students.

The following is a list of items that are used in large quantities: Paper towels, tissues, baby wipes, Clorox Wipes, Sharpies, Expo Markers, construction paper, hand sanitizer, highlighters, washable paint, #2 lead pencils, masking tape, and laminating pouches. There will be receptacles for donations in the Church Vestibule. Thank You!

ATTENTION! PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

It is that time again! We are asking that all parish organizations that use the Parish Hall, Church, Academy Gym, or Rectory meeting rooms for regularly scheduled events and meetings please submit a “Wish List” of your proposed dates for the September through December 2019 season. Please submit your requests to the Rectory either in person or via e-mail (office @mercyhills.org.) as soon as you can. Be sure to include the name and telephone number of a reliable contact person. Thank You!

**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, and another donation was just received last month Thank you for your participation, and please continue to spread the word.

Call (718) 491-2525 or svdpauto-brooklynqueens.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.

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.**