

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Saturday February 1st**  
 8:30 AM Kathy Hughes  
 5:00 PM Helen M. Enigan

**Sunday February 2nd**  
 8:30 AM Michael Minischetti (10th Anniversary)  
 10:00 AM Parish Mass  
 12:00 PM Albert Viviano  
 5:00 PM Maja Jedrak

**Monday February 3rd**  
 8:30 AM Andrzej Woloszynowski  
 12:00 PM Carmela Capezza

**Tuesday February 4th**  
 8:30 AM Terrence McKinney  
 12:00 PM Ignatius Sevcik

**Wednesday February 5th**  
 8:30 AM Robert Skrivanek  
 12:00 PM James M. Pfohl

**Thursday February 6th**  
 8:30 AM Katherine Marie Carroll  
 12:00 PM Michele Adel March (Living Intention)

**Friday February 7th**  
 8:30 AM Mary Tykowski  
 12:00 PM Georg Jagusch

**Saturday February 8th**  
 8:30 AM Louis & Pauline Pfohl  
 5:00 PM Elizabeth Jacques (3rd Anniversary)

**Sunday February 9th**  
 8:30 AM Herman, Joanne, & Katherine Holzknecht  
 10:00 AM Parish Mass  
 12:00 PM Susan Heerey  
 5:00 PM Winston Sammy



**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Patricia Becktold, Ida Ryan, Connie Bornhimer, Pete Rose, Mary Wiley, Kathie Greulich, Joseph & Mary Augustine, Jean Ammirati, Ronald Calcevano, Rose Gaynus, Eleanor Merlino, Seraphina Komlos, Mary Tardona, Dorothy Chocko, Joseph & Catherine Hennessy, Richard McBride Sr., Stacey Headley, Rose Jonsson, Richard Eisenzopf, Alice & Michael Coleman, Elaine Stump, Mary Albert, Maureen Medina, 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**

Claudine Smith  
 Robert Ryan  
 Rev. Joseph Cestaro  
 Rev. Giorgio Ferrara

**THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**

**SUNDAY – February 2nd**  
*The Presentation Of The Lord (Candlemas)*  
 -Blessing of Candles-at all Masses  
 -Children’s Liturgy-10:00am Mass

**MONDAY – February 3rd**  
*Weekday*  
*Feast of Saint Blaise*  
 -Blessing of Throats-at all Masses  
 -Scripture Study-Rectory at 7:30pm

**TUESDAY - February 4th**  
*Weekday*  
 -RCIA/Centering Prayer-Rectory at 7:30pm  
 -Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

**WEDNESDAY – February 5th**  
*Saint Agatha, Virgin & Martyr*  
 -Golden Age-Parish Hall at 12:30pm - **All Are Welcome**  
 -CCD K thru 5th Gr.-Church at 3:15pm  
 -Divine Mercy-Rectory at 6:30pm

**THURSDAY – February 6th**  
*Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs*  
 -Centering Prayer-Rectory at 2:30pm  
 -CCD 6th & 7th Gr.-School at 4:30pm  
 -Boy Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

**FRIDAY – February 7th**  
*Weekday*  
 -OLMCA Sports Night-Parish Hall at 6:00pm

**SATURDAY – February 8th**  
*Weekday*

**If you are not yet registered in the Parish, please stop into the Rectory Office for a Census Form Monday thru Saturday from 9am to 4pm.**



**BAPTISMS**

We welcome into our faith community all those who were baptized in the month of **January, 2020:**  
**Keara Marie Hart**

**MEMORIAL WORSHIP FUND**

Many thanks for donations to the Parish Memorial Worship fund given **in memory of:**  
**Robert Skrivanek**  
 by  
 Susan Finley

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

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday the Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple in Jerusalem. The celebration has its roots in ancient history. People in the near east had been accustomed to offer their most precious possession to the gods in order to procure the favor of the deities. In the early years of the Hebrew settlement in Canaan, many of their neighbors actually sacrificed their children. Apparently some of the Hebrews may have adopted this custom since it was one of the faults that the prophets often condemned. In fact, Gehenna, which by Our Lord's time was the communal garbage dump, outside the walls of Jerusalem, had once been the site of these notorious sacrifices. Because of its history and later usage, Gehenna became a symbol of hell.

Among the Hebrew people, substitute sacrifices were offered to God. The first born was taken to the Jerusalem Temple and offered or consecrated to God and then symbolically "redeemed" by the actual offering of an animal sacrifice. For wealthier families, the sacrifice might be a lamb or goat whereas poorer people offered turtle doves or young pigeons.

Mary and Joseph have made the sacrifice expected of the poor; however, the scene takes on a symbolical importance. Simeon, who had prayed to see the day of salvation of Israel, recognizes the universal significance of this newborn Child. In prayer he blesses God for now he has seen "a light of revelation for the Gentiles (non-Jews) and the glory of Your people Israel." But Simeon also has a sense that this Child of promise will be opposed. He will be destined for "the rise and fall of many in Israel - a sign that will be contradicted". Simeon indicates that Mary will experience sorrows similar to a sword piercing her heart. Such a prediction is not foreign to the ears of loving parents. The success or failure of a child is the cause of joy or sorrow for a parent. The destiny of loving parents is always linked to that of their children.

The somberness of that mood is lifted by Anna, an elderly lady, who spent much of her time in prayer in the temple courtyards. This too is not foreign to our experience. The elderly often have more time to spend in prayer. Anna speaks joyfully about this Child. After all these momentous proclamations, the Holy Family returns home, where Jesus grows in wisdom and strength under the guidance of His parents and God's favor rests on Him.

In a few sentences St. Luke, who authored today's Gospel, reveals once again several of his major concerns. He emphasizes Jesus' outreach to the marginalized, the poor, sinners, and the downtrodden, which are represented by Mary and Joseph. Their sacrificial gift is the one offered by poor people. Luke spotlights the role of women. In His gospel, Mary, Elizabeth and now Anna, the elderly prophetess, have major roles. Prayer, conversation with God, was another Lucan concern. From the pages of His Gospel we have the Magnificat ("My soul magnifies the Lord...") on the lips of Mary; we have the Benedictus ("Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel...") on the lips of Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist; we have the words of the Hail Mary from the archangel Gabriel and now we have the Nunc Dimittis ("Now you may dismiss your servant, O Lord...") from Simeon.

After Luke's Infancy Account, the Presentation narrative forms a second preface or foreword of the entire Gospel. The one presented in the Temple is the One, who against most expectations, will come from humble circumstances, and grow up among ordinary people. For Luke, the extraordinary takes root in the ordinary. The role of women and Luke's concern with keeping open the window of conversation with God will also hold prominent places throughout His Gospel.

In Christ  
Monsignor John A, McGuirl

### WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

On Sunday, February 2, 2020 we celebrate World Day For Consecrated Life. We recognize and give thanks to those who have consecrated their lives to God and the Church through vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Some join a religious congregation as sisters, brothers, or religious priests. Some join a secular institute. Others remain single and make a profession to God through the local bishop and are known as consecrated virgins. May the light of Christ shine brightly through men and women who choose the consecrated life to live out their baptismal commitment, especially those who serve in the Diocese of Brooklyn now or who have been part of our history.

May the men and women in the consecrated life be faithful witnesses of God's gracious love and may their witness draw others to consider this vocation.

### 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.



### OLM BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, Feb 23rd from

8:45 am to 2:45 pm 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. Bring your donor card or your donor ID number. A photo ID is also necessary. An appointment is not necessary.

**Walk-in donors are always welcome. Come and bring a friend.**

**Before you donate: Drink plenty of fluids; don't forget to eat a good meal; don't skip breakfast**

Volunteers are needed throughout the day to provide refreshments and support to the donors. If you are able to offer an hour or two of your time, please leave your name and the time you are available at the rectory office.

### OUR LADY OF MERCY VALENTINE'S DANCE

Join us on **February 15th, at 8:00pm**, to celebrate Valentine's Day. There will be dinner, dancing, wine (BYOB), and music by DJ Janusz. Tickets are \$60 and will be available at the Rectory or text message to 718 755 1404 or 917 683 9842 or email: olmforesthills@gmail.com.

### ST. PATRICK and ST. JOSEPH DAY PUB PARTY FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2020, 7-11 PM

Come one and all to our annual St. Patrick and St. Joseph Day Party - this time pub style with live music of the renowned Tommy Clyne and Rumor Has It. Hot Irish and Italian cuisine, wine, dessert, etc plus Monsignor McGuirl's Famous Irish Soda Bread. Meat dispensation for this special event. \$50 per person. Reservations by March 9th. Look for reservation flyer in bulletins and around church. For additional info or to volunteer, contact Helen at 718-793-2033/ [hvtgmezzo@gmail.com](mailto:hvtgmezzo@gmail.com). God love 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. Our sessions are on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 8:45pm which we combine with bible discussion for other interested adults so please feel free to sit in and join us any Tuesday evening in the Rectory basement.. Please contact David or Carol Powell at 718-261-6285.

### FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

**We always need food staples to re-stock the shelves.** Some suggestions are: **tuna fish, canned stews, hash, or Spam, Chef Boyardee, powdered or Parmalat milk, jelly, rice, instant mashed potatoes, 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.**

**Important Notice:** Since we **Cannot distribute food that has expired. Please Check the Expiration Date on the item Before You Donate It.** Thank You.

### 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

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Sunday, March 1st** at 1:00pm in the Parish Hall there will be "Coffee and Conversation" with Sr. Lucille Souza, MSC. The subject will be ***Getting to Know Mother Cabrini***. Come and learn about this extraordinary Saint.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

Children's Liturgy is back and will be held at 10 am Mass on the following dates: 2/2, & 2/9. This spirited version of the readings and Gospel, complete with puppets, is aimed at helping children through fourth grade understand the Word. Our youngest, wiggliest parishioners warmly welcomed.

**50-50 RAFFLE WINNERS**

Congratulations to the January 2020 Winners of the 50-50 Raffle:

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize: Carolyn Brandlein	\$265.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize: Amelia & Frank Romano	\$132.50
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize: Megan & Stephen Heerey	\$132.50
4 <sup>th</sup> Prize: Manny & Eileen Patino	\$66.25
5 <sup>th</sup> Prize: Michael Ricatto	\$66.25



- **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.
- **Home-Delivered Meals from Queens Community House.** For adults age 60+ in Forest Hills, Rego Park, Corona, Elmhurst. Kosher, vegetarian, and Asian meals can be provided. If you or a friend are in need of having a nutritious and delicious meal delivered daily to your front door, call 718-268-1412, Mon-Fri, 9am to 5 pm.
- **Camp Veritas 2020:** Camp Veritas is a one week play and pray sleep away summer camp for teens going into 7th to 12th grades. It will be held in five locations in 2020; June 29-July 4 at Clongowes Wood College in Ireland; July 19-25 at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, NY; July 26-Aug.1 in Emmitsburg MD; Aug 2-7 in Lake Placid, FL and Aug.16-22 at Camp Lakota in Wurtsboro, NY. Enrollment opens 1/1/20 and enrollment price for each week is only \$400 per camper. More details can be found at [www.campveritas.com](http://www.campveritas.com).
- **Census 2020. Please do not ignore the questionnaire.** Catholic Charities Brooklyn Queens is partnering with NYC Census to make sure that everyone is represented so that Brooklyn and Queens can receive the political and financial benefits that we truly deserve. Correct census results allow our communities to receive funds that shape our local healthcare, housing, education, transportation, employment, and public policy. All people are urged to be counted in the census, regardless of their citizenship.

**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. If you are joining for the first time, an RSVP is required. Please contact the group's facilitator, Commissioned Lay Pastoral Leader Yorke Mizelle, at [ymizelle@gmail.com](mailto:ymizelle@gmail.com), or call the rectory at 718-268-6251

**DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE**

February 05, 2020	No Activity	
February 12, 2020	Divine Mercy Devotion	6:30pm
February 19, 2020	Divine Mercy Cenacle	6:30pm
February 26, 2020	No Activity	

**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](http://svdpauto-brooklynqueens.org)

**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. Please note that the exercise class will be taking a break for the holidays, and will not meet again until February 5th of 2020**

**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.