

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Saturday January 11th**  
 8:30 AM Thomas Cerar  
 5:00 PM Buddy Friedrich

**Sunday January 12th**  
 8:30 AM Claire Steers  
 10:00 AM Parish Mass  
 12:00 PM Susan Heerey  
 5:00 PM Wolfgang Peter Niedt

**Monday January 13th**  
 8:30 AM Robert Skrivanek  
 12:00 PM Nabil Kassis

**Tuesday January 14th**  
 8:30 AM Mary Foertsch  
 12:00 PM David McInerney

**Wednesday January 15th**  
 8:30 AM Rosemary Donohue  
 12:00 PM John Gelosi

**Thursday January 16th**  
 8:30 AM Rev. Howard Picard  
 12:00 PM Veronica Smith (20th Anniversary)

**Friday January 17th**  
 8:30 AM Rosemarie Brennan  
 12:00 PM James M. Pfohl

**Saturday January 18th**  
 8:30 AM Gloria Hartley  
 5:00 PM Antonio Miceli

**Sunday January 19th**  
 8:30 AM Isabella Minischetti (38th Anniversary)  
 10:00 AM Parish Mass  
 12:00 PM Marie Duome  
 5:00 PM Katarzyna Dymon



**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, Vivian WohlFarth, Richard Eisenzopf, 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.**

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

**PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED**

Flor Quiros  
 Gesner Paris Auguste  
 Clara Schilke

**THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**

**SUNDAY – January 12th**  
*Baptism of the Lord*  
 Children’s Liturgy-10:00am Mass

**MONDAY – January 13th**  
*Weekday*  
 -Scripture Study-Rectory at 7:30pm

**TUESDAY - January 14th**  
*Weekday*  
 -RCIA/Centering Prayer-Rectory at 7:30pm  
 -Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

**WEDNESDAY – January 15th**  
*Weekday*  
 -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 – January 16th**  
*Weekday*  
 -Centering Prayer-Rectory at 2:30pm  
 -CCD 6th & 7th Gr.-School at 4:30pm  
 -Boy Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm  
 -Baptism Class-Rectory at 7:30pm

**FRIDAY – January 17th**  
*Saint Anthony, Abbot*

**SATURDAY – January 18th**  
*Weekday*  
 -Baptism-Church at 1:00pm

**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.**

**BREAD AND WINE**



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

**Joan Sauro**  
 by  
 Frank Sauro

**BAPTISMS**

We welcome into our faith community all those who were baptized in the month of December, 2019:

Leah Isabella Nussbaum  
 Lucas Adriano Cedillo-Chirco



**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.

Dear Parishioners,

The liturgical season of Christmas officially ends this weekend with the celebration of the baptism of the Lord as recorded by St. Matthew. As this Sunday's Gospel citation informs us, Jesus was baptized by John (the Baptist or Baptized) in the River Jordan. All four of the Gospels narrate this event; and yet, it seems so odd. Does Jesus need baptism? Even John tries to dissuade Him. John thinks that Jesus should be baptizing him, not the other way around. Jesus is sinless and the baptism of John was specifically seen as a sign of the repentance of sin. As water washes dirt off the body, the repentant sinner "washes" away his/her sins.

In Chapter 3 of St. Matthew's Gospel, the unspoken question is answered: Jesus undergoes this ritual bath in order to "fulfill all righteousness". In other words this Baptism was to reveal what our relationship with God was meant to be. While Jesus may not have needed to repent, we do! Jesus stands with sinful humanity. The Word became flesh and lived among us, but not simply among but as us. He experienced all that we experience, except sin, but even there He makes our plight His own.

The Baptism of John is not yet the sacrament which we undergo, but it heralds the arrival of the Messiah, who will establish the sacramental system. When John dunks Jesus in the waters of the River Jordan, it is reported that as Jesus came up out of the latter, the heavens were opened and a voice says: "This is my Beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased." At the same moment, the Spirit of God hovers like a dove above Jesus. The Gospels seem to differ as to who heard these words and saw the manifestation of God. Was it John, or Jesus only, or the onlookers? But all the Gospel writers include this incident though they may differ in minor details. The four of them recognized this moment as the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, hence the beginning of the Messianic Age, which the prophets, especially Isaiah, had foretold.

In the beginning of creation, God's Spirit hovers over the formless void, the darkness over the deep waters which symbolize unformed or uncreated emptiness. (In Hebrew: tohubohu = trackless waste and emptiness.) The Spirit brings forth creation like a dove hovering over the nest of its creation, its young fledglings. The dove hovering over Jesus has the same the same notion. Here now the new creation begins with the ministry of Jesus. The right relationship with God is as "Abba" (Dad) to his sons and daughters. "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased". That Son is united with us in our humanity so that we might be united with Him in His divinity. We are invited to be members of the circle of God's very family. The true "righteousness" is a relationship of filial love between Abba and His children. To enter that relationship, that righteousness, one had to enter fellowship with the Son, Whose Baptism in the waters of the River Jordan we celebrate this day.

Over the last two weeks, we have celebrated the Birth of the Promised One, the Baby at Bethlehem, now we make ready to follow that Child as an Adult, Who is the "Righteous One"

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Over the last several weeks, we have read about a number of Anti-Semitic actions throughout the country but especially here in our own City. It is important to remember that our Blessed Lord, His Mother, Saint Joseph, the twelve Apostles, Saint Paul, and almost all the earliest followers of Jesus were drawn from the Jewish community. They were Jews living among Jews.

Jesus' followers saw Him as the fulfillment of the ancient Hebrew prophets. To have a true appreciation of Christianity, it is necessary to have an understanding of the First (Old) Testament, especially the prophets and psalms. Jesus Himself was immersed in the Scriptures of the First Testament and He quotes from them regularly. He engaged in the synagogue worship in Nazareth and other towns. He was called "rabbi" (teacher) and He engaged other rabbis in a proper perception of the Law. He went up to the Temple in Jerusalem for the great feasts.

Even our liturgical forms owe a debt to Judaism. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass includes readings (on Sundays and major feasts one of these is always taken from the First Testament), psalms, a homily and then the sacrificial rite of the Eucharistic Prayer, which recalls that first Eucharist at a Passover-like meal. The first Eucharist was either a Passover meal or a meal based on it.

A Christian who exhibits anti-Jewish sentiments is renouncing his/her own heritage. Religiously the Jews are our older cousins. They are the senior members of a long-line which finds its origins in Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (whose nick-name was "Israel"). Even individual squabbles or disagreements between members of the Christian and Jewish communities are in no way a justification for the condemnation of a whole group. There is good and bad among all people and usually each of us a complex mixture of both. One of the major reasons for the Incarnation was to help us overcome our darker nature not to wallow in it.

Our Church has used the adjective "catholic" from the beginnings of Christianity. In Greek, the language of the New Testament, the word "catholic" means "universal" - the Church open to all people professing the same faith. At the very least, the use of that title obliges us to an openness to all people, not the least of whom are our older cousins in the procession that traces its origins to "Abraham , our father in faith". (Roman Canon or Eucharistic Prayer #1.)

In Christ,  
Monsignor McGuirl

**LOST & FOUND:**

During the past weekend, a ladies wristwatch was found in the Church. Please call the Rectory (718-268-6143) for further information.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

Children's Liturgy is back and will be held at 10 am Mass on the following dates: 1/12, 1/26, 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.

**THANK YOU!****BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN FOR 2019**

The Bridge to Life, Inc. would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Father John A. McGuirl and the parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy RC Church for a wonderfully successful Baby Bottle Campaign for 2019 and for your generous donation of \$524.04. Bridge serves thousands of mothers and families annually, providing them with material assistance, counselling and, most importantly, hope. Our mission of bringing support and compassion into the lives of these families, just as they bring joy into our own lives, can only be continued with your support. Thank you for allowing us to continue to serve and help mothers choose life.

Rose Dauge  
*Administrative Assistant*  
The Bridge to Life, Inc.

**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

**SAVE THE DATE**

The next Blood Drive here at OLM will take place on Sunday, February 23rd, 2020 from 8:45am to 2:45pm. Please mark you calendars and consider taking part in this very worthy cause.

**BAPTISM OF THE LORD AND THE TRINITY**

Join us on any or all Tuesday evenings in January, at 7:30pm, in the Rectory basement for an informal discussion of the beautiful feast of Christ's Baptism and the Trinity. Such discussion will also lead to exploration of the humanity and divinity of Jesus. No previous background is necessary. We provide Bibles for the sessions. Any questions contact David Powell at the Religious Education office (718-261-6285)

**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.

**RCIA RITE OF WELCOMING:**

At the Saturday 5:00 Mass this weekend, our RCIA candidate Ken Bravmann is being officially welcomed as a candidate for full initiation into the Catholic Church at this coming year's Easter Vigil. Ken has actually been attending initial sessions weekly since early September during what is called the Inquiry phase of the program and will now enter into his final twelve weeks of intense immediate preparation for receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. 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.

**OLMCA NEWS**

Please join us for our **Scholastic Book Fair** in the **Parish Hall**. On **Wednesday, January 22nd**, we will be open from **4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** We have a special event that night: Children in Grade 2 and below are invited to our **Bedtime Stories Night** from **2-4 p.m.** Come in your pajamas, share milk and cookies, read books, make a bookmark with family and friends, and listen to great stories!

On **Thursday, January 23rd**, we will be open all day from **7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.** Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy will have a t-shirt design workshop for students in Grades 3-8.

Our Book Fair will be open on **Friday, January 24th** from **7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** On our final day, **Sunday, January 26th**, our Book Fair will be open from **9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** We will be having a special **Catholic Schools Week Family Mass at 10 a.m.** We invite all parishioners to join us in the Parish Hall for hospitality (and a little book shopping!) after the Mass. Please spread the word. Family and friends are always welcome, and your support is greatly appreciated!

**WELL DONE!**

Julia Lin, a member of Girl Scout Troop 4413 at Our Lady of Mercy, has been honored by Girl Scouts USA. She will be featured on the NEW Tagalongs/Peanut Butter Patties Girl Scout Cookie boxes. You can read an article about her written by Girl Scouts USA: [https://www.girlscouts.org/en/about-girl-scouts/our-stories/girl-scouts/powerd-by-cookies/julia-l-proving-that-perseverance-pays.html#cookies\\$\\$\\$http://www.girlscouts.org/en/about-girl-scouts/our-stories/girl-scouts/powerd-by-cookies.html](https://www.girlscouts.org/en/about-girl-scouts/our-stories/girl-scouts/powerd-by-cookies/julia-l-proving-that-perseverance-pays.html#cookies$$$http://www.girlscouts.org/en/about-girl-scouts/our-stories/girl-scouts/powerd-by-cookies.html)



- **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.
- **March for Life.** Join the faithful from across the Diocese of Brooklyn on Friday, January 24th, in **Washington DC**. The Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis is sponsoring one bus leaving from Brooklyn (Diocesan Offices: 310 Prospect Park West). Parking will be limited. The bus leaves promptly at 6:30am and will return to Brooklyn as soon as the march is over. The cost of the round trip bus transportation is \$25. To reserve your seat please contact Martha Hernandez at 718-281-9540 or email her at [mhernandez@diobrook.org](mailto:mhernandez@diobrook.org) by January 17th. Make checks payable to Diocese of Brooklyn, and mail to, 310 Prospect Park West, Brooklyn, NY 11215 Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis Attn. March for Life
- **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.
- **Regis High School REACH program is now Accepting Nominations.** REACH is an entirely free high school prep program that prepares middle-school young men for admission to Regis High School and other top Catholic high schools. Students apply as 5th graders and, if accepted, begin the program in the summer before 6th grade. To qualify, Catholic boys must (1) be currently enrolled in the 5th grade; (2) have high grades and test scores; (3) live in NYC and come from a family with demonstrated financial need. To nominate a student visit [www.regis.org/reach/nomination](http://www.regis.org/reach/nomination). The nomination deadline is January 31st, 2020.

**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**

**DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE**

January 15, 2020	Divine Mercy Cenacle	6:30pm
January 22, 2020	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament	7:00pm
	Divine Mercy Chaplet - 7:30pm	Benediction - 8:00pm
January 29, 2020	Divine Mercy Devotion	6:30pm

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

We have been notified that the following parishioners (previous OLM students) have earned Honor Roll status for the last marking period of the current school year-**at The Mary Louis Academy:** Katherine Boselli, Stella DeCicco, Isabella Gianni, Vera Kropf, Gabriela Maldonado, Emma McNulty, Caitlin Murphy, Madison Dougherty, Jana Hippeli, Stefanie Michelitsch, Chiyoko Goya, Jady Ortiz, Christine Thomas.

**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)

**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. Please take pride in our Church, and leave the pews clean. Thank You!

