

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	January 25th
8:30 AM	Marie Concepcion Beaudin
5:00 PM	Anthony Fernandez
Sunday	January 26th
8:30 AM	Michael Minischetti
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Francesca Sacco
5:00 PM	Winston Sammy
Monday	January 27th
8:30 AM	Ann Link
12:00 PM	Michael & Caroline Sassi, Michael Sassi Jr. and Roland Pugliese
Tuesday	January 28th
8:30 AM	Edward Stack Pole
12:00 PM	Fred & Pia Parham
Wednesday	January 29th
8:30 AM	Joseph DiCapua & DiCapua & Bifalco Families
12:00 PM	David Taylor
Thursday	January 30th
8:30 AM	Lorraine Larsen
12:00 PM	Dr. Verisimo Sanchez
Friday	January 31st
8:30 AM	Robert Skrivanek
12:00 PM	Atallah Cassis
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

**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, 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

James Bast
Vivian Wohlfarth

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – January 26th**

Third Sunday In Ordinary Time

-OLMCA Book Fair– Parish Hall from 9:00am to 2:00pm

MONDAY – January 27th

Weekday

-Scripture Study-Rectory at 7:30pm

TUESDAY - January 28th

Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor of the Church

-RCIA/Centering Prayer-Rectory at 7:30pm

-Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY – January 29th

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 30th

Weekday

-Centering Prayer-Rectory at 2:30pm

-CCD 6th & 7th Gr.-School at 4:30pm

-Boy Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

FRIDAY – January 31st

Saint John Bosco, Priest

-Girl Scouts Parish Hall at 4:00pm & 6:00pm

SATURDAY – February 1st

Weekday

-First Penance Retreat-Parish Hall at 1:30pm

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.

**TABERNACLE LIGHT**

Many thanks for this week's donation of the Tabernacle Light given **in loving memory of:**
William H. Bedson
(Birthday Remembrance)
by
Carolyn Cariello

MEMORIAL WORSHIP FUND

Many thanks for donations to the Parish Memorial Worship fund given **in memory of:**
James M. Pfohl
by
Elizabeth Pfohl

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

Dear Parishioners;

Recently a number of folks have been leaving bags of used clothing on the rectory steps. We do not have facilities to store this clothing and because we do not know its provenance we cannot distribute it, and it is not used. This is a shame in a City wherein many people are insufficiently clothed.

There will be a St. Vincent DePaul truck available at the Church on a Sunday in Lent or during the Easter season. I know that the people leaving the clothes do so with a charitable and good heart, but unfortunately we are neither able to use nor store the bags of clothing. Please do not leave bags of clothing at the rectory. When there is a notice of a St. Vincent DePaul Drive you can deliver the bags directly to the truck. Meanwhile, the Salvation Army will sometimes receive used clothing.

Thank you,
Monsignor McGuirl .

We are now in ordinary time - ordinary only because there are no major feasts until Ash Wednesday, which will not come until February 26th. Yet during "ordinary time" is when we primarily live out our lives as Christian men and women.

In this Sunday's Gospel citation, we discover that Jesus has withdrawn to Galilee and moved into the town of Capernaum. Capernaum is now in ruins but in Jesus' time it was a thriving town with an economy based on fishing in the Sea of Galilee. It is located on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee in the ancient tribal lands of Zebulon and Naphtali. Because of various invasions over the centuries it was a mixed area. The population was both Jewish and non-Jewish (Gentile) . The quotation from the Old Testament calls the area "Galilee of the Gentiles". In Jesus' time the area was under the rule of Herod Antipas, one of the sons of Herod The Great.

Next week, a number of our parishioners will accompany Father Greg on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and one of their stops will be at Capernaum. They will see two major ruins. One is the ancient synagogue. Directional signs conveniently inform the visitor that the upper ruins constructed of marble are built upon the ruins of earlier synagogue which was constructed of basalt. Many of those foundation stones are visible and Jesus would have seen them!

The second noteworthy building is a large modern church which closely resembles a flying saucer. This church has a glass floor. For centuries tradition held that Peter's house was on that site. Early Christians had naturally preserved a tradition indicating the location of the house of the "prince of the apostles" and eventually the Byzantine (Eastern Roman) Empire built a small eight sided chapel over the site. Octagonal chapels were often constructed over important sites. Over the centuries Capernaum was overrun several times by invading armies and the original church was destroyed.

During the last half century an archeological dig was mounted by the Franciscan Friars, who have the "custody" of the Holy Land. The funds were provided by the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem. The ruins of the original octagonal church were found and under it the ruins of a small house in which were found ancient fishhooks. As today's Gospel tells us, Peter and his brother Andrew were fishermen.

Galilean fishermen were often members of a co-op type organization and it is quite possible that Andrew, Peter, James and John and their father Zebedee were partners in a fishing co-op. It is possible also that their families lived close together. We know from the Gospels that Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law. Was she cured in that very house under the Franciscan church? As today's Gospel tells us, Jesus made Capernaum the "headquarters" for his preaching missions, so is it also possible that He occasionally lived in this same house? Though there is no way of telling for sure, but was this place made sacred by the footprints of Christ? Did He stand on the same shoreline and see very much the same scene as He gazed south over the waters of the Sea of Galilee?

The call to the Apostles seems very quick but there are indications in the Gospels that Andrew was first a disciple of John the Baptist and through him came to know Jesus. Andrew introduced his brother, Peter, to Jesus (John 35:40-43). It stands to reason that these toughened, hard-working, manual laborers would not abandon their old lives to follow an itinerant Rabbi, unless they had experienced the power of His preaching and seen God's healing power in Him. But follow Him they did. Despite some backsliding, after the Resurrection and Pentecost they began a process that changed the world. We too were led to Jesus and identified with Him in our Baptisms. With the strength of the Spirit, we too can continue the transformation of the world.

Little did Isaiah know, when he voiced the words of our first reading many centuries before the birth of Jesus, that the "people who walked in darkness, have seen a great light, upon those who lived in a land of gloom, a light has shone." That light was Jesus and His ministry would begin in the land of the ancient tribes of Zebulon and Naphtali, the land of Galilee of the Gentiles!

In Christ,
Monsignor John McGuirl

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.

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.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, February 2nd is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord which is also known as Candlemas (ritualistically the day that Churches bless the candles to be used throughout the year). If you wish to bring a candle to be blessed for use in your home, the **Blessing of Candles** will take place at each Mass that day.

Monday, February 3rd, is the Feast of St. Blaise who was venerated as the patron of sufferers of throat disease. For any one who is interested, there will be a **Blessing of Throats** at each Mass that day to commemorate the Feast.

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.

**OLM BLOOD DRIVE**

Only 2% of our local eligible population donates blood each year. There is no substitute for human blood. Every 2 seconds someone needs blood. The shelf life of donated red blood cells is 42 days, and 5 days for donated platelets. Your blood donation will be 1 pint of blood (some donors will be asked if they would like to donate 2 units of red cells via the Automated Red Blood Cell Donation system). There are approximately 10 pints of blood in the average human body. 1 in 3 people will need a blood product in their lifetime. Surgical, trauma, cancer patients, those with blood disorders and at-risk babies need blood. Of non-donors, 17% cite "never thought of it" as the main reason for not giving. If only 1% more Americans donated, blood shortages would disappear. Donor literature and sign-up sheets are in the vestibule of the Church for your review. . To facilitate the registration process, please **bring your donor card or donor ID number on February 23rd. A photo ID is also necessary. Appointments are 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. 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



The Community Bulletin Board

- **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.
- **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. **The nomination deadline is January 31st, 2020.**
- **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 Church of the Resurrection** (85-09 118th St., Kew Gardens, 718-847-2649) will hold their annual Winter Treasure Bake & Book Sale on February 1st and 2nd.

OLMCA NEWS

Please join us for our **Scholastic Book Fair** in the **Parish Hall**. 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!

OLMCA OPEN HOUSE

Do you have grade school children and are looking for the best Catholic education in Queens? Come to Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy's Open House and Continental Breakfast on Sunday January 26, 2020 from 11AM to 1 PM. Call now -718-793-2086 and let us know you are coming!

Can't make that date? We have other Open House dates or we can give a personalized tour with our famous Student Ambassadors! Learn why STEM + M = YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE!

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, or call the rectory at 718-268-6251

DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

January 29, 2020	Divine Mercy Devotion	6:30pm
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

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.