

**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>February 8th</b>
8:30 AM	Louis & Pauline Pfohl
5:00 PM	Elizabeth Jacques (3rd Anniversary)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>February 9th</b>
8:30 AM	Herman, Joanne, & Katherine Holzknrecht
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Susan Heerey
5:00 PM	Winston Sammy
<b>Monday</b>	<b>February 10th</b>
8:30 AM	Joseph DiCapua & DiCapua & Bifalco Families
12:00 PM	Isola & Pinzone Families
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>February 11th</b>
8:30 AM	Miguel & Lucia Dordulaw
12:00 PM	Robert Malm
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>February 12th</b>
8:30 AM	Mass of Thanksgiving in Honor of St. Joseph
12:00 PM	Keith Daniel Finer
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>February 13th</b>
8:30 AM	Theresa Frazer
12:00 PM	William Walters
<b>Friday</b>	<b>February 14th</b>
8:30 AM	Casaccio, Chocko, & Link Families
12:00 PM	Roy Blash
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>February 15th</b>
8:30 AM	Robert Skrivanek
5:00 PM	Francis Morison
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>February 16th</b>
8:30 AM	Helen Enigan
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Edward Miller
5:00 PM	Edmond J. Flood

**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**

Rev. Matthew Grant

**THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH****SUNDAY – February 9th***Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time*

-Children's Liturgy-10:00am Mass

**MONDAY – February 10th***Saint Scholastica, Virgin*

-Forest Hills Civic Association Meeting –Parish Hall at 7:30pm

-Scripture Study-Rectory at 7:30pm

**TUESDAY - February 11th***Weekday*

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

-Cub Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

**WEDNESDAY – February 12th***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 – February 13th***Weekday*

-Centering Prayer-Rectory at 2:30pm

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

-Boy Scouts-Parish Hall at 7:00pm

-Baptism Meeting-Rectory at 7:30pm

**FRIDAY – February 14th***Saints Cyril, Monk. & Methodius, Bishop*

-Girl Scouts-Parish Hall at 6:00pm

**SATURDAY – February 15th***Weekday*

-Valentine's Day Dinner/Dance-Parish Hall at 8:00pm

**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.**

**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.

**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

Dear Parishioners;

The Scriptural lessons for the Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time are decidedly shorter than usual but the editors of the Lectionary (the Book containing the lessons to be read throughout the year at Mass and other liturgical ceremonies) centered this week's lessons on the same theme; the impact a true disciple of Christ has on the world.

To make His point, Jesus compares His disciples to the salt of the earth. Before the development of salt-substitutes, people on a salt free diet often lamented the loss of flavor in their food. Salt provides a tangy flavor to food. In former times it was also used to preserve food. Without salt food could lose its taste and become spoiled. If salt loses its ability to flavor and preserve, it is good for nothing but to be thrown away. In ancient time sharing salt was often a sign of friendship. Salt was so important that it was occasionally used as a form of currency. In fact, our English word "salary" derives from the Latin word, "sal" meaning "salt". Roman soldiers were often paid in salt thus giving us the word "salary".

Jesus uses another metaphor: His disciples are also the light of the world. That light cannot be hidden any more than the bright lights of a large city can be hidden. Furthermore, people do not turn on the lights in order to hide something but rather so that they can see. Today's Gospel is taken from the Sermon on the Mount (The Beatitudes). Jesus seems to be adding two additional Beatitudes; blessed are you who are the salt of the earth; blessed are you who are the light of the world. We are blessed if we are the salt and the light but we bring those blessings to others. Wherever the disciples are, there also should be the flavorful goodness of the Gospel, a Gospel preserved and pure. "Just so, your light must shine before others, so that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father".

The first reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah carries much the same message though it was written many centuries before the birth of Jesus. Isaiah writes that "your light shall break forth like the dawn" if we shelter the oppressed and the homeless, give food to the hungry and remove from our midst oppression, false accusation and malicious speech.

The second reading is taken from St. Paul's First Letter to the Church he founded at the Greek city-state of Corinth. In it Paul suggests that while he preached the Gospel with none of the rhetorical flourishes popular at the time, he came with the resolution "to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified". While Paul professes His weakness, he admits that the Spirit used him to proclaim the Gospel and that through him the power of God reached his listeners. Thus it is true of all disciples if they follow in the footsteps of the Master. The good works of Jesus' disciples will be salt and light - through them others will be drawn by God's light and their lives will be flavored much in the same way salt flavors and preserves food.

In Christ,  
Monsignor McGuirl



### OLM BLOOD DRIVE

**Sunday, Feb 23rd from  
8:45 am to 2:45 pm in the  
Parish Hall**

January was National Blood Donor month. Thank you to all the volunteers that have donated in the past at Our Lady of Mercy Blood Drives. In 2019 Our Lady of Mercy sponsored two blood drives and contributed 92 lifesaving donations to our local hospitals. Each donation can benefit up to three patients in need, so our efforts affected 276 lives.

1 in 7 patients entering a hospital has a need for blood. Less than 20% of blood donations come from Millennials (age 20-34 years old). More than 34,000 units must be collected from volunteers every day to fulfill the needs.

What does it take to be a Blood Donor?

Blood donors must be at least 16 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and not have donated blood within the last 56 days (116 days if your last donation was a double unit). Sixteen year olds must present a signed parental permission form. Visit [www.nybloodcenter.org/16](http://www.nybloodcenter.org/16) to obtain the form. Forms will also be available at the blood drive. People age 76 and older can donate blood if they meet all criteria and present a physician's letter.

Any questions regarding medical eligibility to donate blood, please call the NYBC at 1-800-688-0900.

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.

### 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.

### OLM 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](mailto:olmforesthills@gmail.com).

### ST. PATRICK / 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

### IMPORTANT CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

On **Monday, February 10th, 2020**, the Forest Hills Community and Civic Association will host an extremely important meeting in Our Lady of Mercy Church Parish Hall (Juno Street between 70th and 71st Avenues) at 7:30 P.M. Among the vital topics to be discussed will be:

*Bus Loss.* First and foremost will be the redesign of the bus system throughout the City. Part of that redesign is the loss of the Q23 (the former Triboro Bus Route from Metropolitan Avenue to Ditmas Boulevard at LaGuardia Airport). The loss of the Q23 would deny public transportation to everyone living between Austin Street and Metropolitan Avenues. Older folks particularly will have very little access to shopping, especially grocery shopping, doctors, the Long Island Railroad Station or the subway. If cabs or private services attempt to fill the gap, there will be a huge increase in vehicular traffic on 71st Avenue. Even now, during rush hours, a red traffic light on Metropolitan Avenue can back up traffic all the way to Manse Street.

*Queensway?* The possible loss of the north-south bus route emphasizes the increased need for dependable north-south public transit. Running through the western edge of our parish is the abandoned Long Island Railroad Rockaway Branch (last used in 1962). Should it be reinstated with sound baffles and other precautions for the folks living along Alderton and Selfridge Streets?

*The School Diversity Plan.* In an attempt to increase diversity in the public middle schools a plan has been proposed by the City Council to bus children from their neighborhoods to other areas. Our neighborhood is already extremely diverse. Our community includes people of virtually every background and racial stock. All of our schools, public and private, are already paradigms of diversity. Could we be more diverse than we are?

Let your voice be heard. These issues directly impact our neighborhood and our parish!

### 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.

### FEEL GREAT & LOOK GREAT

**Regularly scheduled exercise classes are back!**

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.**

### CONGRATULATIONS

On January 11th, at Sacred Heart Gym in East Glendale, the Msgr. Sherman Council #5103 of the Knights of Columbus, Glendale (our local Council) hosted their annual "Free Throw" contest for boys and girls ages 9 to 14. Most of the winners were from St. Pancras or Sacred Heart parishes but Daniel Capra, age 9, of the Our Lady of Mercy/Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs Joint Teams was one of the winners in this first round. Winners who sink the most basketball free throws in 25 attempts will represent the Council at the Queens County Championships at St Robert Bellarmine Parish on February 29th. Congratulations Daniel!



- **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

### 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)

### 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.

### DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

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

### 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.

### REMINDER

There is still a ladies wristwatch in the Rectory that was found in the Church several weeks ago.