

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	March 21st
8:30 AM	Laura Saraceni
5:00 PM	Marie Shookster
Sunday	March 22nd
8:30 AM	Henry Timmerman
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Arthur Bonetti
5:00 PM	Gary Suarez
Monday	March 23rd
8:30 AM	Albert Pierre Arab
12:00 PM	Douglas R. Smith
Tuesday	March 24th
8:30 AM	Maria Wasiluk
12:00 PM	Marion Parham
Wednesday	March 25th
8:30 AM	May Chocko
12:00 PM	The Souls In Purgatory
Thursday	March 26th
8:30 AM	Miguel & Gladys Sanchez
12:00 PM	John Nikol (Living Intention)
Friday	March 27th
8:30 AM	
12:00 PM	Michael & Caroline Sassi, Michael Sassi Jr. and Roland Pugliese
Saturday	March 28th
8:30 AM	William Middleton
5:00 PM	Jozef Grebowiec
Sunday	March 29th
8:30 AM	Doris Helen McKeon
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Giovanna & Maria Caleca
5:00 PM	Andrew Carlson

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Patricia Beckett, 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, Richard Eisenzopf, Alice & Michael Coleman, Elaine Stump, Mary Albert, Maureen Medina, Robert Palermo, Cheryl Di Napoli, Jazlyn Castro Bilog, Jerzy Stasiak, Rev. Peter Rayder, German Diaz, Adam Sapel, Elizabeth Pfohl, 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; SPC Benjamin Bravmann, U.S. Army; 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

Byron Ahlemeyer
Kayla J. Mendoza

Although our previously intended plans for confessions and organized prayer are suspended because of the current medical emergency, the Church will remain open EVERY DAY for PRIVATE prayer from 8:30am to 1:00pm

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Please note that, since all of our offices and buildings are currently closed, all regularly scheduled meetings are temporarily cancelled.
Our Lady Of Mercy Catholic Academy will be closed until April 20, 2020

SUNDAY – March 22nd

Fourth Sunday of Lent

MONDAY – March 23rd

Lenten Weekday

TUESDAY - March 24th

Lenten Weekday

WEDNESDAY – March 25th

Annunciation Of The Lord

THURSDAY – March 26th

Lenten Weekday

FRIDAY – March 27th

Lenten Weekday

SATURDAY – March 28th

Lenten 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.

**TABERNACLE LIGHT**

Many thanks for this week's donation of the Tabernacle Light given in **loving memory of:**

Graham McGinley

by

Diane & Sean McGinley

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.

My Dear Parishioners,

As a society and as a Church we have entered what some are calling the "new normal". Due to fears about the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the possible detrimental effects on the vulnerable especially among older folks (which by age includes your writer), all public liturgical services of the Church are suspended "until further notice". The exceptions are funerals and previously planned weddings, if the numbers of attendees can be kept to a minimum. This seems rather draconian but as the centurion told Jesus, we are people subject to authority. It is the considered opinion of the Bishops in the tri-state area to suspend public worship. At the very least, such a policy may also prevent the spread of the ordinary flue and the common cold.

In my forty-eight years as a priest of the Brooklyn (Queens) Diocese, this is the first time that there is no public celebration of Holy Week and Easter! Yet what we celebrate at Easter is of the greatest importance! Before everything else we believe that God is madly in love with the creature made in His image and likeness. That love was demonstrated in the Incarnation, when the second Person of the Blessed Trinity took on a human nature. In His humanity, every public act and word of the Lord Jesus was geared to give life. While it is obviously true that not everyone in Judea, Samaria or Galilee were cured of their maladies during our Lord's public ministry, each one who did experience a cure stood as a living symbol of what God intends for all of us. The Resurrection, which we normally celebrate on Easter Sunday, is the Great Affirmation that no matter how bleak the hour, the God of life ultimately prevails. When our Blessed Mother and a few of Our Lord's closest companions stood under that cross on the first Good Friday, surely they wondered how and if God could work this out. Here was a good Man suffering the fate reserved by the Romans for the execution of rebels or common criminals. How could this happen? Yet you and I have an advantage on the folks on Calvary's hill. We know about the Resurrection; they did not know about it until it happened.

Our nation and particularly our State and City are experiencing distress in the face of an invisible (to the naked eye) foe, yet we must keep faith in the Lord of life. Our mandate to care for our neighbors and friends still exists. Instead of giving up something for Lent (after all the society has had to give up quite a bit in the face of this disease) now might be the time to contact an elderly neighbor, especially those who are homebound or ill. Do they need shopping? Do they need medicines? Do they simply need someone with whom they can talk? In meeting those needs we are extending God's merciful hand to those who at this time require it the most.

This Sunday is Laetare Sunday. Its title is from the Latin word meaning to rejoice. Instead of the usual Lenten violet, the vestments for Mass are rose colored. In the midst of Lent, this Sunday urges us to focus on the joy that lies ahead. In today's Gospel, typical of St. John, Jesus is again involved in a paradoxical conversation with His disciples. The disciples have equated the blindness of a man to his supposed sinfulness. This was a common notion at that time yet one which Jesus did not accept. He cured the man using a mixture of mud and spittle (which was thought to have curative effects). When the man washes the mud from his eyes he could see. Next comes a long discussion with some Pharisees. Jesus observes that the man's blindness will be the occasion for the working of divine action. Again in a complete reversal of the usual, it is the Pharisees who are truly blind while the physically blind man sees! Toward the end of the Gospel, Jesus asks the formerly blind man: "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" The man responds: "Who is he, sir that I may believe in him." Jesus answers: "You have seen Him and the One speaking with you is He." The words are reminiscent of last week's Gospel also from St. John when Jesus tells the Samaritan woman at the well: "I am He (the Christ), the One speaking with you."

We too have seen and Jesus speaks to us in the Scriptures to insure us that: "Even though I walk in the dark valley, I fear no evil; for You are at my side with Your rod and Your staff that give me courage... and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come".

Continue to page 4....

Pastor's Message continued:

Our parish is working with some knowledgeable people to devise a means by which we can have a weekly Mass available on Face book and You tube. We hope to be up and running sometime this week. Watch the Parish Facebook Page. Meanwhile Holy Mass is also scheduled as follows:

Saturdays at 6:00 P.M.- Vigil

Prerecorded from Immaculate Conception Parish in Jamaica (English language)

Sunday at 11:00 A.M. -

Live from St. James Cathedral in Downtown Brooklyn (English language)

Sunday at 1:30 P.M.

Pre-recorded from the Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph in Prospect Heights, Brooklyn, (Spanish language)

We are a Sacramental people and these strictures are particularly painful though temporary; nonetheless, do not panic, but rather continue to find solace and support in your personal devotional life: be it the Rosary, Scripture reading, your daily morning and evening prayers, The Liturgy of the Hours (Breviary), grace before and after meals and so many other pious practices kept by our Catholic people.

Our parish Church will remain open every day from 8:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. so that you can drop by; pay a visit to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and pick-up any information in the vestibule of the Church.

Please know that Father Greg and I are celebrating two private Masses every day and the intentions pre-arranged by our parishioners are being satisfied at those Masses.

In Christ,
Monsignor McGuirl

LENTEN REGULATIONS 2020

WEEKDAYS OF LENT: There is no obligation to fast except on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. However, voluntary acts of self-denial are recommended.

ASH WEDNESDAY & GOOD FRIDAY: These are days of Fast and Abstinence from meat, (this includes chicken). There is a limit of one full meal on these days for all between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive.

DAYS OF ABSTINENCE: ALL FRIDAYS IN LENT All who have reached their 14th year are bound to abstain totally from meat.

EASTER DUTY OBLIGATION: After they have received their First Holy Communion, Catholics are bound by the obligation of receiving Holy Communion at least once a year. This precept should be fulfilled during the Easter Season. Catholics are also bound to confess serious (mortal) sins at least once a year, preferably during the Lenten/Easter Season.

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

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**

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.

PRAYER FOR HEALING

Lord we ask You to lift up those who are facing illness today. We ask You to bring Healing, Comfort and Peace to their body, mind and soul. We ask You to calm their fears and let them feel the Healing power of your Love.



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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Catholic Charities Mobile Outreach Team** serves our Queens neighborhoods and offers supportive services in the privacy of your home. These services include counseling, connecting you to community-based home care, and legal and mental health services for individuals age 5 and older. Call 718-456-7001.
- **St. Stanislaus Kostka** (57-15 61st St., Maspeth, NY) Rosary Altar Society will host their **Annual Champagne Brunch on March 29th at 12:00 noon**, serving up unlimited Champagne, delicious food and great prizes. There will be a donation of \$17 and you can make reservations by calling Charlie at 718-326-2185
- **Molloy College** (1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre, NY) will hold a **Spring Open House on Sunday, April 26th at 1:00pm**.

FIGHT FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL FUNDING

(A message from the Vicar General's Office)

Lawmakers are poised to finalize a state budget on March 31st, which is expected to include hundreds of millions more in funding for public education. It's crucial that we add our voice to ensure that the state's Catholic schools receive their fair share of funding for critical programs that support our students and teachers. Please take action now to send a message to your elected representatives. You may communicate directly or use the following link to send your message: <https://tinyurl.com/wfbeeug>.

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. For a schedule of meetings or if you are joining for the first time, please contact the group's facilitator, Commissioned Lay Pastoral Leader Yorke Mizelle, at ymizelle@gmail.com, or call the rectory at 718-268-6251
- There will be a **Divine Mercy Bus Pilgrimage with the OLOM Charismatic Prayer Group** to the **National Shrine of the Divine Mercy** in Stockbridge, Massachusetts on **April 19th**. The bus will **depart 7AM (sharp)** from in front of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church (110-06 Queens Blvd at corner of Ascan Ave.). **Cost: \$50 per person**. Tickets are first come, first serve. Reserve your seat now, invite a friend along, and wear good walking shoes. For tickets or questions, please contact: Cely De Borja 347-743-2304

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



The Feast
of the
Annunciation
of the LORD

MARCH 25, 2020