

MASS INTENTIONS

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
Monday	March 30th
8:30 AM	Mary La Sasso
12:00 PM	Fr. Joseph Gancila
Tuesday	March 31st
8:30 AM	Mary La Sasso
12:00 PM	Victor Velazquez
Wednesday	April 1st
8:30 AM	Louis & Pauline Pfohl
12:00 PM	Theresa & Ignatius Sevcik
Thursday	April 2nd
8:30 AM	
12:00 PM	John S. De Biase
Friday	April 3rd
8:30 AM	
12:00 PM	Frank & Betty Essex
Saturday	April 4th
8:30 AM	Laura Saraceni
5:00 PM	Arthur Bonetti
Sunday	April 5th
8:30 AM	Mary Brech
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Vincenzo & Angela Di Graci & Deceased Family Members
5:00 PM	Flor Quiros

**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, 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.

ALL SCHEDULED MASS INTENTIONS WILL BE HONORED AND CELEBRATED PRIVATELY, BY THE PRIESTS OF OUR PARISH

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 29th

Fifth Sunday of Lent

MONDAY – March 30th

Lenten Weekday

TUESDAY - March 31st

Lenten Weekday

WEDNESDAY – April 1st

Annunciation Of The Lord

THURSDAY – April 2nd

Lenten Weekday

FRIDAY – April 3rd

Lenten Weekday

SATURDAY – April 4th

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.

**MEMORIAL WORSHIP FUND**

Many thanks for donations to the Parish Memorial Worship fund given in memory of:

James M. Pfohl
by
Elizabeth Pfohl

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;

In this depressing period of crisis in our national psyche today's Gospel from St. John is a hopeful sign. Some of this Gospel citation is read frequently at funeral Masses. As we read it, it becomes increasingly obvious why.

Jesus has received word that His friend, Lazarus, has died. For one reason or another, He is delayed. The delay permits Martha and Jesus to have a discussion which leads to a more profound understanding of death. But their conversation does not eliminate the normal human emotions in the face of the death of a loved one. Martha confronts Jesus with a challenge. "If you had been here, my brother would never have died..." which is pretty blunt language to someone who has been on foot and travelled a distance to be with her and her sister, Mary, at shiva (the Jewish mourning period). She softens it just a little with "...but I know that God will give you whatever you ask of Him." Hot and dusty, Jesus may not have been ready for a long discussion about the meaning and purpose of death, so He simply says "Your brother will rise in the resurrection on the last day.". Martha answers that she already believes that, but her tone is such that she seems to be looking for more. The more is in Our Lord's words: "I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me, even if he (she) dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" Martha's response is that of the Church: "Yes, Lord, I have come to believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, the One Who is coming into the world."

Despite that conversation, when led to Lazarus' tomb, Jesus weeps for him. He weeps in grief for the shock and disruption that attends death. He feels that lonesomeness, and distress all of us face in the death of a loved one. Yet Jesus orders the rock that blocked the tomb's entrance removed. Martha objects: "Lord it has been four days since Lazarus' death, there will be a stench". The average person was not embalmed in that time. Burial in the Jewish community was (and still is) as close to death as possible. Martha is no fool. She knows what will be the condition of her brother's corpse after four days in the tomb. Jesus cries out: "Lazarus, come out!" and Lazarus does.

Earlier in this Gospel, Jesus had declared that " the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice and come out." (Jn 5:28-29) Lazarus is the first example of this promise's fulfillment, which also foreshadows Jesus' resurrection. Jesus said to the onlookers: "Untie him (untie Lazarus from the enveloping shroud and burial bands) and let him go!".

At this time of national fear and anxiety in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, we too ask to be untied and released from our fear of death and that which might lead to it. Death is naturally accompanied by fear, anxiety and tension but all of those things, real as they are, do not have the last word. The Lord of life does!

The following information may be of great value to all of our parishioners and friends.

Daily and Sunday Masses can be accessed through our parishes' website: www.mercyhills.org and our Facebook Page: [facebook.com/OLMFHS](https://www.facebook.com/OLMFHS).

Thanks to Mr. Kerry Bourgoine, you can also access us on [YouTube at Our Lady of Mercy Church Forest Hills New York](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...). We usually celebrate our Mass is at 10:00 A.M. but Deacon Dean will send out a notice on those sites if there is change.

If you cannot assist at our parish Masses, the Diocesan Television Station, Net-TV offers Mass in various languages throughout the day. If your server is *Spectrum*, the channel is #97; if you service provider is *Optimum*, then the channel is #30 and if you server is *Fios*, the channel number is #48.

_____The Diocesan website also will give a listing of Mass times: <http://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/masses>.

Remember your older, infirm or homebound neighbors and reach out to them in a gesture of Christian charity. Uniquely the folks on 69th Road in Forest Hills have entered an International Effort to honor those who are working to keep us safe, healthy, fed and informed. At 8:00 P.M. every evening they invite all the neighbors and the whole community to stand on the stoops of our homes and show support by ringing chimes, clapping hands or banging on pots. Join them!

Be safe!
In Christ,
Monsignor John McGuirl

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.

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.

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.

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.



The Community Bulletin Board

- **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.
- **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/wfbeeuy>.

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



PRAY THE ROSARY