

**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>April 4th</b>
8:30 AM	Laura Saraceni
5:00 PM	Arthur Bonetti
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>April 5th</b>
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
<b>Monday</b>	<b>April 6th</b>
8:30 AM	Casaccio, Chocko, Chapman & Link Families
12:00 PM	James M. Pfohl
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>April 7th</b>
8:30 AM	Joseph Di Capua & Bifalco & Di Capua Family
12:00 PM	Ervin Dudas (2nd Anniversary)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>April 8th</b>
8:30 AM	Hugh & Mary McGovern
12:00 PM	Rita Cleary
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>April 9th</b>
8:30 AM	NO
12:00 PM	INTENTIONS
<b>Friday</b>	<b>April 10th</b>
8:30 AM	NO
12:00 PM	INTENTIONS
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>April 11th</b>
8:30 AM	NO
5:00 PM	INTENTIONS
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>April 12th</b>
8:30 AM	_____
10:00 AM	NO
12:00 PM	INTENTIONS
5:00 PM	_____

**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, Christine Bernardo, 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**

Elizabeth Pfohl  
Father Jorge Ortiz  
Joe Lewinger  
Irene Ciccaron  
Agnes Robinson

***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 Further Notice***

**SUNDAY – April 5th**

*Palm Sunday*

**MONDAY – April 6th**

*Monday of Holy Week*

**TUESDAY - April 7th**

*Tuesday of Holy Week*

**WEDNESDAY – April 8th**

*Wednesday of Holy Week*

**THURSDAY – April 9th**

*Holy Thursday*

**FRIDAY – April 10th**

*Good Friday*

**SATURDAY – April 11th**

*Holy Saturday*

**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:**

**Tosi & Van Nostrand Families**

by

Mary Van Nostrand

My Dear Parishioners;

Ordinarily this would be the celebration of Palm Sunday. Hopefully our liturgy or those of other parishes will be seen by a significant number of our parishioners and friends. If you reached this site, you already know that our website is: [www.mercyhills.org](http://www.mercyhills.org) but do spread that information. A surprising number of parishioners had no idea that we had a website or that they could access it.

In ancient times, in the Near East palm branches were used in much the same way as we use confetti. It was a way of welcoming an important personage into a town or village. Word had spread about Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish High Holy Days. Some had witnessed or heard about His miraculous cures, particularly the raising of Lazarus (recounted in last Sunday's Gospel citation) and His comforting though often challenging words. At least some of His disciples and others, possibly onlookers and passersby, welcomed Jesus into the Holy City with palms and by spreading their cloaks on the ground before Him. He is riding a donkey, which is reminiscent of a prophecy made centuries before.

Yet the Gospel for the Mass is the Passion narrative according to John the Evangelist. What a contrast! The joyous reception counterbalanced by the awful narration of the Passion and Death. The readings of the Mass have a resonance in the current situation of our country. This year the joy and good-feeling we usually experience with the return of warmer spring weather is muted because of the coronavirus epidemic that has gripped our country, our State and our City.

Palm Sunday presents us with that paradox. Good is often mingled with the bad. Jesus arrives in Jerusalem triumphantly; yet, before the week is out He will be betrayed by one of His own, misunderstood by the leaders of His own people, and feared by the Roman occupiers because, mistakenly, they view Him as a possible competitor to Caesar in Rome. He would face the agony of the scourging, the humiliating buffets and mockery of the Roman soldiers, the rejection of a mob of people in the governor's courtyard, the condemnation by a callow Pilate, then the agonizing walk to Calvary culminating in the excruciating crucifixion. The latter fine-tuned by the Romans to squelch any opposition to their rule. Death was usually the combined result of asphyxiation, and the loss of blood.

In Aramaic (the common spoken tongue - Hebrew by Our Lord's time was reserved for worship) Jesus voices: "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which begins Psalm 22: "My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?" The cry is one of agony but not despair. Jesus would have known the entirety of the Psalm which has a hopeful ending. The author of the Psalm recognizes that he is persecuted and though God apparently remains silent, the psalmist maintains his hope. The final verses of the psalm indicate that his hope is warranted: "(God) does not turn away from them (the poor) or ignore their suffering but answers when they call for help...people not born yet will be told: "The Lord saved His people."

As we progress through Holy Week, even at a painful distance from one another, we walk with the Lord. We walk with Him through His passion. Because of the coronavirus19, we have entered our own Passion, yet as Psalm 22 foresaw and the Resurrection proclaims: the God of life wins! Jesus' resurrection is a foretaste of own. Death is real and, in our present circumstances, it is fearful but it does not get the last word. It is not permanent. The God of life is forever and on Him we set our sights in this time of trial.

In Christ,  
Monsignor John McGuirl

Pastor's Message continued:

There are some news-notes: our parish live-streams Mass every day. We can be found on our website: [www.mercyhills.org](http://www.mercyhills.org), which also has links to Facebook and YouTube.

In addition Mass is being beamed on the Diocesan Station NET TV. If you have cable, it can be accessed on Spectrum (Channel#97); Optimum (Channel 30) and Fios from Verizon (Channel#48). EWTN (Mother Angelica's Station) also has a full Mass and Holy Week schedule.

The schedule for Holy Week in Our Lady of Mercy Parish will be live-streamed.

**Palm Sunday - 12:00 P.M.**

**(Please note that we may not distribute palm this year!)**

**Holy Thursday - 7:00 P.M.**

**Good Friday - 3:00 P.M.**

**Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil - 8:00P.M.**

**Easter Sunday - 10:00 A.M.**

God bless you and be safe  
Monsignor McGuirl

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**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.

**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.

**OUR FOOD PANTRY IS CLOSED**  
**UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

**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](http://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](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.
- **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/wfbeeug>.

## *PRAY THE ROSARY*

