

Our Lady of Mercy

70-01 Kessel Street, Forest Hills, NY 11375



Sunday December 27, 2020

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

We, the Catholic faith community of Our Lady of Mercy are a welcoming parish, striving to serve the diverse peoples of Forest Hills.

Rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we value our celebration of the Eucharist and Sacraments, our proclamation of God's Word and our loving outreach and service to others.

Trusting in God's love and mercy, and recognizing our need for grace, we commit ourselves to the spirit of inclusion through community service, faith sharing, education, outreach and spiritual growth.

We dedicate ourselves to live as a dynamic, compassionate and open faith community that inspires both present and future generations to claim the mission of Christ as their own and live it with joy and integrity.

PARISH CLERGY

Rev. Frank Schwarz, Pastor
Rev. Msgr. John McGuirl, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Mr. Dean Dobbins, Parish Deacon

RECTORY

Tel: 718-268-6143 (Fax - 718-544-3764)
Web Site - www.mercyhills.org
E-Mail - office@mercyhills.org
Weekend Organist: Mr. Gary DiFranco
Administrative Assistant: Ms. Dian R. Malm
Part-time Secretary: Ms. Sandra Luongo
Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9 A.M to 4 P.M.

Sunday Masses

Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 9:00 A.M., 10:30 A.M., 12:00 P.M.

Weekday Masses

Monday to Saturday: 9:00 A.M.

Devotions

Rosary & Divine Mercy Devotions every day following
9:00 A.M. Mass
Miraculous Medal Novena after 9am Mass on Monday

Holyday Masses - as announced

Office of Human Services & Pastoral Care

Deacon Dean Dobbins - 718-268-6143 Ex. 14

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy

Ms. Dana McCann, Principal
70-25 Kessel St. 718-793-2086
Secretaries - Ms. Revette Hinkson
Mrs. Donna Alleva

Office of Religious Education

Ana Tavares
Director of Religious Education
Side entrance of convent
(Call for appointment) - 718-268-6143 Ext. 28
Email - olmercyreligion@gmail.com

New Parishioners are most cordially welcomed. Please introduce yourself to one of the priests and register at the Rectory.

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Contact the rectory to make an appointment with the priest or deacon for the initial interview. Baptisms are celebrated on the first and third Saturday of each month. Instruction is required for the first Baptism

Reconciliation: Saturday 4:00 to 4:45 P.M.; For any other time, please call rectory.

Holy Matrimony: Marriage arrangements must be made at least six months prior to a wedding date. Call the rectory for an appointment with a priest or deacon.

Anointing of the sick: This sacrament is available for any baptized Catholic who is seriously ill or suffering from the effects of advanced age. It is also recommended for anyone who is going to undergo serious surgery. Please call the rectory to schedule an appointment for a priest to visit your home. A communal celebration of this sacrament will be scheduled twice a year.

Communion Calls: Please call the Rectory for a visit by a priest or the services of a Eucharistic Minister.



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday December 26th
 9:00 AM Marita & Ben Ang
 Michael & Caroline Sassi, Michael Sassi Jr.
 & Roland Pugliese
 Anna & Luke, & Fred Sorrentino
 5:00 PM Elsie Didier

Sunday December 27th
 9:00 AM Kristina Kynina Kisiel
 10:30 AM Missa Pro Populo
 12:00 PM Leo Gillespie

Monday December 28th
 9:00 AM George & Steven Flaucher

Tuesday December 29th
 9:00 AM Charles O'Shea

Wednesday December 30th
 9:00 AM Anna Sorrentino

Thursday December 31st
 9:00 AM James Leddy
 8:00 PM New Year's Vigil (Latin/English)

Friday January 1st
 9:00 AM New Year's
 10:30 AM Day

Saturday January 2nd
 9:00 AM Sally & Andy Kissel
 5:00 PM Missa Pro Populo

Sunday January 3rd
 9:00 AM Nellie Rooney
 10:30 AM Purgatorial Society
 12:00 PM Herman, Joanne, & Katherine Holzknacht

PRAY FOR THE SICK



Patricia Beckett, Ida Ryan, Connie Bornhimer, Mary Wiley, Kathie Greulich, Joseph & Mary Augustine, Ronald Calcevano, Rose Gaynus, Eleanor Merlino, Seraphina Komlos, Mary Tardona, Dorothy Chocko, Richard McBride Sr., Richard Eisenzopf, Alice & Michael Coleman, Mary Albert, Maureen Medina, Cheryl Di Napoli, Jazlyn Castro

Bilog, German Diaz, Adam Sapel, Christine Bernardo, Andy Marajh, Robert Palermo, Heather Wilcox, James Leung, Maureen Kelly, Paul Henry, Virginia Winberry, Dennis Roberts, Rev. Radu Titonea, Carolyn Kalnberg, Lynn Russek, Daniel Ginsberg, Barbara Carrasco, Celia Ayon, Isabel Azzaro, Chuck Haunss, Amanda (Amy) Algiere, Nilda Gonzales, Mary Ann Whatley, Felipe Vallejo, Andy Sanchez, Ethel Timmerman, John Holzknacht, Iris Torres, Elsie Petronelli, Frank Gaynor, Joseph Labay, JoAnn Stumpp, Joan Minischetti, and for **all of our parishioners who are currently hospitalized or homebound.**

PRAY FOR THE ARMED SERVICES



Major Peter Sulewski, USA; Lt. Col. Patrick Davis, USA (JAG); Sgt. Beau Parham, USA; Major Paul Lentz, USAF; Sgt. Larry Saume, USA; Capt. Travis Swiatocha, USMC; Pvt. Tim Richardson, USA; SCSSO Ajay James, (NSW) USN; SPC Benjamin Bravmann; USA; PO2 John Schaefer, USCG; ; Rev. Lt. Mark Bristol, USN; Rev. Col. James Krische, USA; and **all parishioners currently in the Military**

Pray for all of our law enforcement officers, firefighters, and first responders, who risk their lives daily to insure our safety.

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

SUNDAY – December 27th
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
MONDAY – December 28th
The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
TUESDAY - December 29th
Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord -Golden Age Club-Parish Hall from 11:00am to 2:00pm
WEDNESDAY – December 30th
Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
THURSDAY – December 31st
Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
FRIDAY – January 1st
The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
SATURDAY – January 2nd
Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

If you are not yet registered in the Parish, please stop into the Rectory Office for a Census Form Monday thru Friday from 9am to 4pm.

BREAD AND WINE



Many thanks for this week's donation of Bread & Wine given in **loving memory of:**

Jimmy Stewart (Beloved Nephew)
 by
 Terence Stewart & Barbara Hunt

TABERNACLE LIGHT

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

Gladys Sanchez
 by
 The Almeida Family



MEMORIAL WORSHIP FUND

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

Eric J. McCormack
 by
 John & Gladys McCormack

POPE'S MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION

DECEMBER, 2020

For a life of prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS
BEAUTIFYING OUR CHURCH THIS SEASON



HAVE BEEN DONATED
IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Francis Morison
With Love & Thanks
by
Ann & Our Children

The Finley and Delaney Families
by
Susan & Frank Finley

Florence & John Romano and Veronica & James Mauro
by
Frank & Amelia Romano

Helen & William Enigan
by
The Belfiore Family

Pezzello/Vortami/McCullagh Family
by
Cora Pezzello

Helen & Frank Dubiel and Helen & James Freeley
by
Mary Ellen & Jim Freeley

The Scott & Velasco Families
by
Olga & Jack Scott

Jennette & Charles Markey & Eleanor & James Gorman
by
Carol & Patrick Gorman

HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

The **Christmas and New Year Mass schedule** is as follows:
Thursday, 12/31-New Year's Vigil Mass at 8:00pm
will be celebrated in Latin and English
Friday, 1/1/2021-New Year's Day Mass at 9:00am,
and 10:30am.

Dear Parishioners,

On behalf of Msgr. McGuirl, Deacon Dobbins, and the staff at Our Lady of Mercy Parish, allow me to extend to all of you our heartfelt best wishes and prayers for you and your loved ones during this most Holy Season of our Savior's birth. It has been, no doubt, a difficult year. COVID-19 has limited our ability to live the kind of lives to which we had become accustomed. Social distancing has certainly helped to curtail the spread of the virus, but it has also isolated many people from their friends, families, and even the Church. Sadly, the mandatory shutdown of the churches from March to July has diminished our sense of community. Even though we have been able to set up live-streamed Masses so that parishioners could at least hear the Word of God and make a Spiritual Communion, there is still a diminishment in our identity as a Community of Faith centered around the Eucharistic table.

I pray that 2021 will be a year of return to Church for many people, even those who were perhaps not regular Church goers before. If nothing else, we have certainly learned how frail humanity is, and how much we need God to be part of our lives. This pandemic will end at some point (hopefully sooner rather than later), but our vulnerability to things beyond our control continues. Yet, "Those who put their trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, that cannot be shaken" (Psalm 125). Yes, I believe our faith will see us through even the most trying of circumstances.

For me, personally, this time of transition has certainly been a challenging one. Not being able to meet many of the parishioners that I am called to serve is one of them. I am confident, however, that it will happen in God's own time. He, who made Himself vulnerable by entering our humanity, will see us through. He has never abandoned those who trust in Him, and He has not done so now.

May all of you have a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy and healthy New Year. Take care of one another, be safe, and never forget that God's love for us, manifested in Birth of His Son, is greater than any hardship we may endure.

God Bless,
Fr. Frank

P.S. Please see the "Formed" flyer on the last page of this bulletin. Take advantage of this free program about our Catholic Faith.

PURGATORIAL SOCIETY

Dear Parishioners,

Starting in January 2021, the 10:30 AM Mass on the first Sunday of each month will be set aside for Members of the Purgatorial Society. **The Purgatorial Society enrolls a deceased loved one in twelve consecutive first Sunday Masses.** To enroll a deceased loved one in the Purgatorial Society we ask that a \$25 offering be made to Our Lady of Mercy Church, and their names will be enrolled in the Purgatorial Society Book. The names of the enrolled members will be printed in the bulletin in the month they are first enrolled only. Please consider this as a way of remembering a loved one throughout the year.

Fr. Frank

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

OUR FOOD PANTRY IS OPEN ONCE AGAIN! The pantry will be open on Saturdays between 10:00am and 11:00am. There will be prepared bags to pick up. Masks must be worn by all. And social distancing will be observed.

We always need food 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.

We thank you in advance for your support!

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

The 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal campaign continues toward our goal of \$81,995. So far, \$66,208.36 has been pledged and \$65,197.36 has been received.

Please consider making a pledge to the Annual Catholic Appeal, and thank you for all that you do for Our Lady of Mercy Parish.

Make your ACA pledges at the following website, if you have not received a donation request by mail: www.annualcatholicappeal.org

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

CONGRATULATIONS

We have been notified that several of our young parishioners (OLMCA graduates) have merited recognition from their High Schools for commendable academic performance during the first quarter of the current school year. We all join in congratulating them for a **Job Well Done.**

- **St. Francis Preparatory School** - Francisco Alarcon, John Fischer, Mark Sulewski
- **Msgr. McClancy Memorial H.S.** - Hailey Cannon, Stephen Heerey, Matthew Canizares, Gianluca Gargano
- **The Mary Lewis Academy** - Isabella Benedetto, Katherine Boselli, Stella DiCicco, Madison Dougherty, Chiyoko Goya, Gabriela Maldonado, Emma McNulty, Stefanie Michelitsch, Heather Peach, Jana Hippeli, Vera Kropf, Jadyne Ortiz, Christine Thomas, Julia Wyman

**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

**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. There is an **IRS tax deduction, and free towing.** Our Lady of Mercy Parish has received several hundred dollars this past year, thanks to your participation. 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. Please contact the Religious Education office (718-266-6143, ext.28) for more information.

OUR LADY OF MERCY
50/50/ RAFFLE PROGRAM

Our Lady of Mercy Church

70-01 Kessel Street, Forest Hills, N.Y. 11375

December, 2020

The Christmas season has begun. Decorations are slowly appearing around the neighborhood and across the city. Our own Christmas tree will be sparkling with lights for all to see as they pass on Juno Street and 70th Avenue. Hopefully, it will bring a little joy and smiles to the people of our neighborhood and others during this very trying time.

It is also time again for our 50/50 Raffle Program to begin a hopefully brighter 2021 New Year. More than ever before, we are asking for your help by considering taking a membership or perhaps, giving one as a gift. The more people participating, the larger the prize.

The money that we raise will help defray the unexpected costs that we have incurred due to the pandemic as well the expenses throughout the coming new year. Please try to support this effort by returning the form below with your \$50.00 donation for half a year or \$100.00 for a full year. Returns should be made by January 15, 2021.

You can't **win it** if you're not in it!

Thank you for your consideration. I appreciate your every effort and support as we being the new year together.



Fr. Frank Schwarz
Pastor



50/50 Raffle Returns

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____



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