

Our Lady of Mercy

70-01 Kessel Street, Forest Hills, NY 11375



Sunday September 26, 2021

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 In Residence
Rev. Msgr. John Maksymowicz-Senior Priest In Residence
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 12 P.M. &
1 P.M. to 4 P.M.
Saturdays and Evenings: By appointment only
Sundays: Closed

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

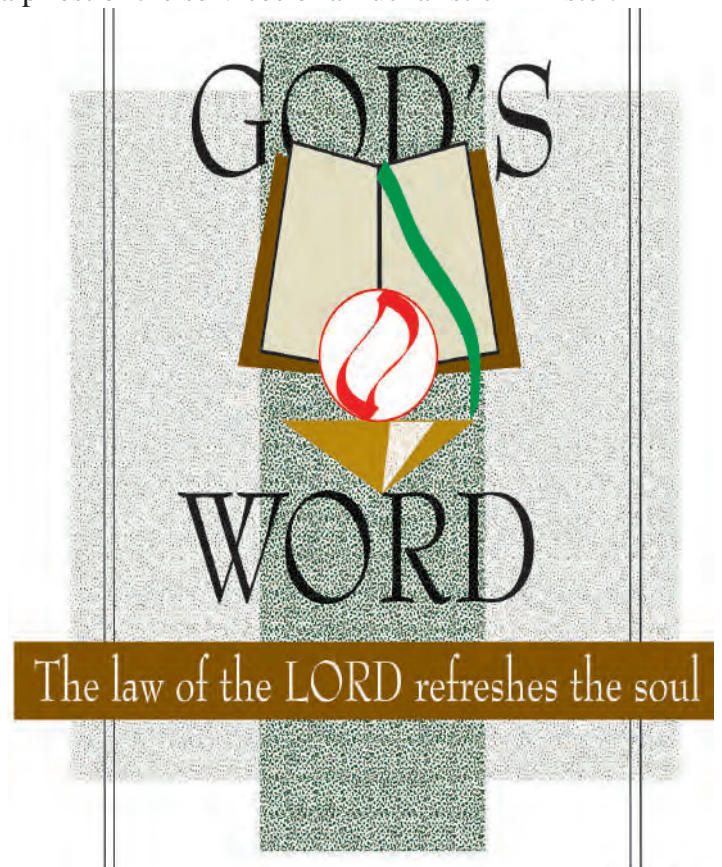
Baptism: Contact the rectory to make an appointment with the priest or deacon for the initial interview. Baptisms are celebrated on the first and third Saturday of each month. Instruction is required for the first Baptism

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 September 25th
 9:00 AM 1. Friends of Paolo Boselli
 2. Joseph Labay
 5:00 PM Camillo Turruciano

Sunday September 26th
 9:00 AM Maja Jedrak
 10:30 AM 1. Bernadette & Michael BiFalco & Family
 2. Barbara Khorigan
 12:00 PM Missa Pro Popolo

Monday September 27th
 9:00 AM Elaine Stump

Tuesday September 28th
 9:00 AM Lawrence A. Glucs

Wednesday September 29th
 9:00 AM Poldi Meditz

Thursday September 30th
 9:00 AM Tom Bermingham (1st Anniversary)

Friday October 1st
 9:00 AM Joseph, Marie & Patrick Dufficy & Kathleen Romano

Saturday October 2nd
 9:00 AM 1. John Jacques
 2. Bernadette Boyle
 3. Alice Mlicko
 4. In Thanksgiving
 5:00 PM Missa Pro Popolo

Sunday October 3rd
 9:00 AM Thaddeus Lubanski
 10:30 AM Purgatorial Society Enrollees
 12:00 PM Joan Minischetti

PRAY FOR THE SICK



Frank Gaynor, Eleanor Merlino, Felipe Vallejo, Richard Eisenzopf, Joann Sienkewicz, Fred Daheri, Mary Albert, Maureen Medina, George & Margaret Bender, Virginia Winberry, Carolyn Kalnberg, Frank Kalnberg, Patricia O’Sullivan, Christopher Kasten, Christian Torres, Margaret Hefferon, Miriam Davis, Philip Aniguili, Vera Garofalo, Ann Voll, Robert Manno, Maureen Aniguili, Keith & Viola Sellons, Alice & Michael Coleman, Ed Parham, William Conologue, Jonathan Chocko, Robert Palermo, Cathy Wilkinson, Elsie Savarese, Patricia May, James Leung, Ruth Drucker, James Olmez, John Ginty, Mary O’Hara, Connie Bornhimer, Maryanne Whatley, Margaret Saume, Joseph Greve, Marko Russ, Peter, Gina Ross, Joan Michelli, Robert D. Scudellari Sr., Patricia Coleman, Mary Tardona, 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; SCSO Ajay James, (NSW) USN; Sgt. 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

Norman Maurer
 Michael Machalski

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

SUNDAY – September 26th
Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MONDAY – September 27th
Saint Vincent de Paul

TUESDAY - September 28th
Weekday

WEDNESDAY – September 29th
Saints Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels
 -Golden Age Club-Parish Hall from 11:00am to 2:00pm

THURSDAY – September 30th
Saint Jerome

FRIDAY – October 1st
Saint Therese of the Child Jesus

SATURDAY – October 2nd
The Holy Guardian Angels

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 12pm & 1pm to 4pm



TABERNACLE LIGHT

Many thanks for this week’s donation of the Tabernacle Light given in loving memory of:
Bernadette Boyle
 by
 Ralph & Kathleen Nocera

MEMORIALIZE A LOVED ONE

Consider the possibility of a donation of the **Flowers for the Altar, Bread & Wine, Tabernacle Light, Purgatorial Society,** 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

POPE’S MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION

September, 2021

An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle
 We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

October 2021

Missionary Disciples
 We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavor of the Gospel.

THIS IS THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH**PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH**

This prayer can be added to the end of the Rosary, especially during this, the Year of St. Joseph.

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of your most Holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also. Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven.
Amen.

PURGATORIAL SOCIETY

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 entered in the Purgatorial Society Book in the Rectory. The names of the enrolled members will be printed in the bulletin in the month they are first enrolled only, and a complete list will be posted in the Church Vestibule. Please consider this as a way of remembering a loved one throughout the year.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

This year's annual Blessing of the animals will take place on Sunday, October 3rd at 1:15pm. Please bring your pets and join us on the Juno Street lawn, adjacent to the statue of St. Francis, All pets are welcome. **But please be sure to have your pets in a secure carrier or on a leash for their own safety**

**ATTENTION SINGERS!
THE CHOIR IS BACK!**

The Adult Choir is resuming weekly rehearsals on Wednesday, from 7:00-8:30 PM in the Choir Loft.

If you are interested in joining the choir please contact Gary DiFranco at 917-626-7760 or email olmercymusic@gmail.com.

All are welcome!!!



Our Religious Education Program remains online for the 2021-2022 academic year and registration is currently open. Please visit our website for more information on registration: <https://mercyhills.org/education/religious-education/>. If you have further questions, email our office at olmercyreligion@gmail.com or call at [\(718\) 268-6143](tel:(718)268-6143) EXT. 28.

Classes began on Wednesday, September 22, 2021.

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE:
OBERAMMERGAU THE PASSION PLAY**

The trip is from May 17th to May 26th, and **includes visits to Rothenburg Rebensburg, Passau, Salzburg, & Munich.** Bishop Octavio Cisneros will be the Spiritual Director and Rev. Frank Schwarz will be the Chaplain. For a brochure call Peters Way Tours at 516-605-1551 or the email is peter@petersway.com.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

The 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal campaign begins with our goal of \$77,953 So far, \$76,050 has been pledged and \$67,510 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.

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

Dear Parishioners,

Once again this week we join Jesus and His disciples on their long journey from Galilee to the Holy City of Jerusalem. It is in the Holy City that they expect to celebrate the feast of Passover and where, yet unknown to the disciples, the final events of Jesus' life will take place. Jesus uses the seventy mile journey to speak about the requirements of discipleship. During this journey on foot, John encounters a man, who is driving out demons in Jesus' name. John, perhaps speaking for the other disciples, seems to think that the disciples have a monopoly on the Jesus "franchise". They are still thinking in terms of status and privilege. They completely overlook the fact that this unnamed individual is doing good by freeing people from the destructive power of the devil. Rather they concentrate their attention on the fact that the man is not a member of their apostolic band. In this they echo Joshua in the first reading taken from the Old Testament Book of Numbers.

The scholars who developed the Sunday Lectionary usually choose the first reading as a compliment to the message of the Gospel. In today's first reading, Moses feels overwhelmed by the demands of the people as they journey from Egypt to the Promised Land. God agrees to take some of the spirit that was on Moses and bestow it on seventy elders, who would then be Moses' colleagues. It turns out that two of the elders, Eldad and Medad, though invited, were not present at the Meeting Tent when God spoke to Moses. Yet despite this they too are prophesying in the Hebrew camp. Joshua beseeches Moses to stop them but Moses rather than chastising them, goes even further and wishes that all the people were gifted with the spirit of prophesy.

While the elders in the first reading and the Apostles in the Gospel have been chosen by God as His instruments, God is not limited. Many people, who do not belong to our Faith Community, accomplish good and fine things. In their pursuit of goodness, they should have our support and cooperation. We need not hold the theological opinions (or lack of them) of others who accomplish good thing, "who drive out demons in Jesus' name" (and they may not even be aware of that Name). "Whoever is not against us is for us" Jesus says. Similarly anyone who assists in the good works of the followers of Christ (" gives them a cup of water to drink") will surely not lose his/her reward.

The final verses of this Sunday's Gospel are very different from the earlier verses. Jesus repeats the Greek word: "Skandalizo" which can mean "to cause or lead one to sin or to cause one to fall away or to set a stumbling block in the path of another. Our English word, "scandal", is taken from this Greek verb. Our Lord first expresses a concern for the "little ones". While this could mean children or those dependent on another, it also refers to Jesus' followers, many of whom were the "little ones" in the sense that they were unimportant or marginalized in the view of the "important people" in society.

The next statements seem particularly harsh and, if enacted even by the firmest Biblical literalists, there would be a great number of armless, legless, eyeless people among the followers of Jesus. Obviously Jesus is employing hyperbolic language to make an extremely important point: that nothing should prevent us from the life Jesus offers and that His disciples should be at great pains to avoid losing that life.

"Gehenna" was the garbage dump outside the walls of Jerusalem. The smell was excessive and fires were kept burning in order to eliminate the debris. Gehenna would be a natural lure to worms and members of the insect world. Naturally such a place became a metaphor for hell. The person who does not take action and sort out the priorities of life may experience Gehenna as an alternative destiny, rather than the destiny, God, through Jesus, has planned for us.

Peace,
Monsignor McGuirl



- **Regis High School Columbus Day Open House.** Monday, October 11 @ 1–4 p.m. at Regis H.S., 55 East 84th St., Manhattan. Register in advance at www.regis.org to attend in-person or contact Eric Di Michele, director of admissions, 212-288-1100, ext 2057; edimichele@regis.org. Regis H.S. is an all-scholarship Jesuit school for talented and gifted Catholic boys.
- **Notre Dame High School of Manhattan** (327 West 13th St.) will host its annual Open House on Sunday, October 24th from 2:30pm to 5:00pm. RSVP Registration required. Visit www.cheznous.org for details. For further information, please call the school at 212-620-5575, ext.318.
- **The St. John's University Speech and Hearing Center** (152-11 Union Tnpk., Flushing) will be offering **FREE speech and hearing screenings** from September 13, 2021 through December 9, 2021. Please call the center at 718-990-6480 to schedule an appointment.
- **Outdoor Flea Market at St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish (150-75 Goethals Ave., Jamaica).** Weekends through November 20/21. The flea market is located in the St. Nicholas church parking lot. Admission and parking are free. For information, phone 718-591-1815.

SUICIDE PREVENTION PLEASE HELP

Tom Lambert, who has been the long time Custodian for OLM and is known to many of us, is asking for our help once again in obtaining donations to **The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.**

On **October 24th, 2021** Tom will be “walking” in honor of his daughter, Jillian Lambert, who his family lost to depression three and a half years ago. **The “Walk or Drive” begins at 10:00am at Jones Beach Field #5 (meeting at 8:30am).**

If you would like to donate to a GREAT cause, you can do so leave a check (payable to: American Foundation for Suicide Prevention) at the Rectory and Tom will make sure that all monies are submitted on your behalf.

We will be updating information and a donation website in the coming weeks

CONNECT TO FORMED!

FORMED, produced by the Augustine Institute, is now available without charge to all parishioners of Our Lady Of Mercy. All that is needed to visit the website is Internet access and an e-mail account.

FORMED is an on-line resource for adult and youth faith formation, prayer, sacramental preparation, and so much more. There are books, audio talks, movies, studies...something for everyone. This is literally the Catholic Faith On Demand. The app can be downloaded very easily to your computer or ROKU and also to your cell phone or iPad so that you can enjoy the presentations wherever you happen to be.

To register on FORMED:

- 1) Go to FORMED.org/signup
- 2) Enter our Zip Code, 11375, and select Our Lady of Mercy.
- 3) Enter your name and email

If you already have a FORMED account:

- 1) Go to FORMED.org
- 2) Click on “Sign In”
- 3) Enter your email
- 4) Click the link in your email
- 5) You're in! No more passwords!

FOOD PANTRY

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.

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 of these donations in the past when our parish was mentioned as people donated. We are grateful for your participation, and hope that you will continue to spread the word.

Call (718) 491-2525 or svdpauto-brooklynqueens.org

WHERE FAITH  HOPE  CHARITY  PREVAIL



Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy

70-25 Kessel Street, Forest Hills, NY 11375

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FOLLOW US IN ACTION ON FACEBOOK: [@ourladyofmercyca.org](https://www.facebook.com/ourladyofmercyca.org)

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