

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday January 8th
 9:00 AM 1. Mario D. Asaro & Santo Genna
 2. Maria Fenandes
 3. Earl Duree
 William Elia
 5:00 PM
Sunday January 9th
 9:00 AM Missa Pro Popolo
 10:30 AM 1. Henry A Foertsch
 2. Raffaele Bifalco
 3. McSkimming/Cunningham Family
 Michael Machalski
 12:00 PM
Monday January 10th
 9:00 AM Ann V. Colgan
Tuesday January 11th
 9:00 AM Ruth Merlini
Wednesday January 12th
 9:00 AM Anthony Sileo
Thursday January 13th
 9:00 AM Mary Foertsch
Friday January 14th
 9:00 AM Thomasina Ciulla
Saturday January 15th
 9:00 AM Paul Michael Schunk
 5:00 PM Alfred & Giovanna Infosino
Sunday January 16th
 9:00 AM Veronica Smith
 10:30 AM 1. Sheila Carlos Reis
 2. McSkimming/Cunningham Family
 12:00 PM Missa Pro Popolo



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, Patricia May, James Leung, Ruth Drucker, James Olmez, John Ginty, Mary O’Hara, Maryanne Whatley, Margaret Saume, Joseph Greve, Marko Russ, Peter, Gina Ross, Joan Michelli, Robert D. Scudellari Sr., Patricia Coleman, Mary Tardona, Mary Sarro, Diane McGinley, Cory Govier, Anthony Capranzano, Vincent Musacchia, Marina Santamaria, 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; Major Travis Swiatocha, USMC; ; 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

Joseph Struse
 Norma Ramos

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

SUNDAY – January 9th

Baptism of the Lord

MONDAY – January 10th

Weekday

TUESDAY - January 11th

Weekday

WEDNESDAY – January 12th

Weekday

-Golden Age Club-Parish Hall from 11:00am to 2:00pm

THURSDAY – January 13th

Weekday

FRIDAY – January 14th

Weekday

SATURDAY – January 15th

Weekday

-Baptism-Church at 1:00pm

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:
 Thomas & Margaret Ellen Greer**

by
 Lillian & Wendell Putz



We welcome into our faith community, **baptized** in the month of **December, 2021:**
 Emily Beverly Benes

POPE’S MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION

January 2022

For true human fraternity

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

Second Collections

- Today’s second collection is for “Diocesan Mission”..
- Sunday, January 16, second collection is for “Seasonal Maintenance”

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.

The following individuals have been added to the Purgatorial Society in the month of January:

**Eric McCormack
Alexander Sergeevich Barybim
Margaret Mejia
Thomas Di Nucci
Ann Di Nucci**

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

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

The 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal campaign begins with our goal of \$77,953 So far, \$80,261 has been pledged and \$78,088 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. **Remember, every dollar received over goal comes back to the Parish to be used toward expenses.**

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

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.

OLM WINTER BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday 27 Feb 2022, 8:45 am to 2:45 pm
Parish Hall

On Sunday, 2/27, OLM will once again be sponsoring a winter Blood Drive for the New York Blood Center. Last year OLM sponsored three blood drives (instead of our normal two drives) because of the severe blood shortage. OLM parishioners and neighbors turned out and supported all three drives. Our drives were able to collect a total of 159 pints of blood for the New York Blood Center.

As we continue to live under the cloud of the pandemic, there continues to be a severe shortage of blood throughout the metropolitan area. When we hold our winter blood drive, it will be about 2 weeks short of the two year anniversary of this pandemic. Two years of lost blood drives and donors have added a great stress to the blood supply chain that was already stressed before the pandemic.

Please mark your calendars now for the blood drive. Many people will be greatly appreciative of your donation of the Gift of Life.

Further details will be forthcoming with instructions on how to sign up for the blood drive at the New York Blood Center website

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!.

**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.

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Today's feast often caused theologians stress. If Jesus was sinless - the state of sinfulness being that which separates us from God - then why did Jesus want to be Baptized? John's Baptism, though not the Christian Sacrament with which we are familiar, was meant to be a sign of repentance from sin. Water washes away grit and dirt and the symbolic bath in the River Jordan was meant to illustrate the person's desire to wash away his or her sins.

Let's step back a bit. Before the New Testament was written in the form we have it, the earliest Christians had to depend on the words of the Old Testament - the Jewish Scriptures. The latter often predicted the coming of One Who would make God manifest to His people and Who would call people to repentance as indicated in our first reading from the prophet, Isaiah. It was understood that reform and change of heart were necessary for the reception of God's Word.

Our second reading is an excerpt from the Acts of the Apostles, which St. Luke wrote as a sequel to His Gospel. The narrative centers on the careers of the two great pillars of the early Church; Peter and Paul. In today's selection, Peter has been called to the home of a Gentile - non Jew - and now he is in for big surprise. Almost all the members of the primitive Church were of Jewish origins: the apostles, our Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and Jesus Himself. There was considerable feeling that the message of Jesus was meant only for His own people and that, if non-Jews wished to enter the early community, they had first to be converts to Judaism and take on all the requirements of the kosher food laws.

Just before today's selection, while he was hungry, Peter had a vision in which he is shown various animals and told to eat. Some of the animals were in the unclean category, so Peter resists. He is told: "What God has made clean, you are not to call profane". While he is thinking on this, a group come and invite him to the home of Cornelius, a Roman centurion, whose home also would have been thought to be unclean. Peter makes the connection with his vision and says: "God has shown me that I should not call any person profane or unclean". Thus the door opens for the admission of the Gentiles to the early Church. While Peter is at Cornelius' home, he delivers a short instruction on the basics of the Christian faith and he refers to the Baptism of Jesus by St. John. Peace with God was preached by Jesus beginning with His baptism by John, beginning in Galilee.

Both readings lead us to the climax of today's feast - the last Sunday of the Christmas season. Next Sunday we resume ordinary time which we left at the first Sunday of Advent. The Gospel also comes from St. Luke. Some people were beginning to think that perhaps John the Baptist might be the long-expected Messiah but in today's Gospel citation, John himself denies this. Moreover John says: "... one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of His sandals. He will baptize you with water and the Holy Spirit." John has been sent by God to prepare hearts for the coming of God's kingdom. The One Who announces that kingdom will make God manifest and present.

At His Baptism, the Spirit in the form of a dove descends on Jesus and the Voice tells Him that: "You are my Beloved Son. With you I am well pleased". Jesus' life now takes on a radical new direction. Now His one Focus, as the Son of the Father, is to proclaim a message of hope and peace with God and one another. His mission goes further than converting hearts - it also means establishing a relationship between God and His people. This relationship will be supported by the Holy Spirit.

So why was Jesus Baptized? Well, He did not need to be washed of sin, but He did wish to be fully identified with sinners. His mission is to call them into a relationship with God. They are to form a New Israel, Jews and non-Jews, formed and strengthened by the Holy Spirit. By adoption they too will become sons and daughters of God. This message is unique to Christianity and it is the foundational belief. God calls us through Jesus of Nazareth, His beloved Son, to a family relationship with Him.

As we begin Ordinary Time again - only ordinary in that there are no major feasts - how can we keep that marvelous message quiet? We are called by our own Baptisms to be God's children, His family, called to share His family life, not just now, or a few hundred years but forever. Can't beat that message - a message that defines us at our own Baptisms! That Baptism should also radically redirect our lives. At His Baptism, Jesus began His public life of revealing God infinite compassion and kindness for us. At our Baptisms, we begin a public life of proclaiming in our words and actions that very same message!

In Christ,
Monsignor McGuirl

OUR LADY OF MERCY
50/50 RAFFLE PROGRAM
2022

Dear Parishioners

The Christmas season has begun. Decorations are slowly appearing around the neighborhood and across the city. Our own Christmas tree is 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 trying time

It is also time again to begin our 50/50 Raffle Program for the New Year of 2022. More than ever before, we are asking for your help. Please consider taking a membership, or perhaps giving one as a gift. The more people that participate, the larger the prizes will be.

*The money that we raise will help defray the unexpected costs that we have incurred as a result of the pandemic, as well as other expenses that will be arising throughout the coming year. You can support this effort by returning the form below with your donation of \$50.00 for half a year or \$100.00 for a full year. **Returns should be made by January 20th, 2022.***

There are five winners every month!

Thank you for your consideration. I appreciate your every effort and support as we bring in the New Year together.

Fr. Frank Schwarz

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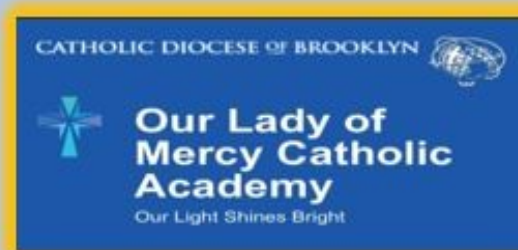
50/50 Raffle Return

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel. Number: _____

**GIVING
TUESDAY**



On TUESDAY, NOV. 30, 2021, Help Us Solve This Problem :


IF (10 Teachers Each Need 1 Dell Laptop Costing \$679 Each)

+

(30 Students Each Need 1 Chromebook Costing \$300 Each)

THEN how can I help Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy get

Dell Laptops and Chromebooks?

3 EASY WAYS TO GIVE :  Online at: <https://olmercyca.org/givingtuesday/>



Scan to Donate:



Mail to: Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy
Attn: Giving Tuesday
70-25 Kessel St.
Forest Hills, NY 11375

There are other ways to help as well! Share our school Facebook page and posts using hashtag #GivingTuesday and find out if your company will match your gift! Your gift on #GivingTuesday will have an immediate impact in support of our students. We know we can count on you for support!

Thank You and Bless You as Always !

MercyDoesTheMath#QueensStrong#YouAlwaysHaveOurBack#YouAlwaysHaveOurPrayers