

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday February 21st
5:00 PM Kathleen Minihan

Sunday February 22nd
8:30 AM Luigi & Giovanni Balcastro
10:00 AM Parish Mass
12:00 PM Mary Iaquinta
6:00 PM George Kotys

Monday February 23rd
7:00 AM Nicholas Mele
8:30 AM Eleanor Shavel & George & Elizabeth Schaber
12:00 PM

Tuesday February 24th
7:00 AM
8:30 AM Robert Almeida
12:00 PM

Wednesday February 25th
7:00 AM
8:30 AM Louis & Pauline Pfohl
12:00 PM
7:30 PM

Thursday February 26th
7:00 AM
8:30 AM Fortunato Aliperti
12:00 PM Fiorella & Walter Perugini

Friday February 27th
7:00 AM Ethel Rohr
8:30 AM Michael, Caroline, Michael Sassi, Jr. & Roland Pugliese
12:00 PM

Saturday February 28th
8:30 AM Susan Sweeney
5:00 PM Elizabeth Walters

Sunday March 1st
8:30 AM Heinz & Reilly Families
10:00 AM Parish Mass
12:00 PM Kathleen Ann Elizabeth McBride
6:00 PM Nino Caliendo

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

James Schnepf, Paul Matthew Larsen, Rosemarie Regalario, DW, Sally Flaig, Joseph Radison, Julian Rys, Janis Wallenstein, Marian Burgel, Madeline Guido, Jack & Madison Lewinger, Josephine Kelly, John (Jack) Sullivan, David Glass, Maureen Crowley, Teodora Tamburelo, Bob Lancer, Amy Algiere, Mary Hanley, Thomas Kelly, The Mestrich Family, Barbara Silver, Theresa Polancic, Howard Diamond, Robert Erickson, Nicholas Gagliano, Msgr. Langelier, Gertrude Klienklau

Please pray for those in our armed services, especially:
Edy Claudio & Robert Claudio, Stephen Deere
Captain Eileen Gillespie U.S. Army
Sgt. Bryan Jiencke, USMC
S/Sgt. Teague A. Liming, USAF
Staff Sgt. James McKeon, US Army
Lt. Brendan T. Cremins, US Navy

**PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED**

Barbara Corbellini
Robert Bernas
Joseph J. Murphy, Jr.
Rev. Joaquin Stephen Longres

ALTAR FLOWERS

Many thanks for this week's flowers donation given in
Loving Memory for
In Loving Memory of

Victor Griffin

by

Eric & Anna Marie Prono

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 22**

-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
-Blood Drive – 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM – LCH

MONDAY – FEBRUARY 23

-Memorial of St. Polycarp
-RCIA – 7:30 PM – Convent
-Scripture Study Group – 7:30 PM – Rectory
-Diocesan Mandated School Pre-Registration & Registration

TUESDAY – FEBRUARY 24

-Ordinary Time Weekday
-Prayer Group – 9:00 AM – Rectory
-Cub Scouts – 7:00 PM – LCH

WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 25

-Ash Wednesday
-Masses at 7:00 AM, 8:30 AM, 12:00 PM and 7:30 PM
-Distribution of Ashes after the Homily at all Masses
-School Prayer Service with Distribution of Ashes – 10:00 AM – Church
-Golden Age Club Meeting – 12:00 PM – LCH
-CCD – 2:15 PM – Church
-CCD Prayer Service with Distribution of Ashes – 2:30 PM – Church
-Divine Mercy Prayer Group – 7:30 PM – LCH

THURSDAY – FEBRUARY 26

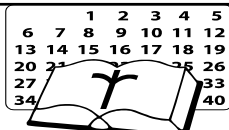
-Lenten Weekday
-Bereavement Meeting – 11:00 AM – Rectory

FRIDAY – FEBRUARY 27

-Lenten Weekday
-Daisy/Brownie Scouts – 2:45 PM to 5:00PM – LCH
-Cadette Girl Scouts (Troop 4004) – 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM – LCH

SATURDAY – FEBRUARY 28

-Lenten Weekday
-Junior Girl Scouts (Troop 4491) – 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM – LCH
-Confessions – 4:00 PM to 4:45 PM – Church
-Filipino Mass – 6:30 PM – Church
-Filipino Social after Mass – LCH



Pastor's Message
for Lent

Dear Parishioners:

Ash Wednesday, February 25th begins the sacred season of Lent. Our penitential practices prepare us for the celebration of the great mysteries of Faith at Holy Week and Easter. Lent imitates Our Lord, Who took forty days in the desert to prepare for His public ministry. Throughout that ministry He regularly withdrew to deserted places for prayer and contemplation. Conscious penitential self-denial can help us to focus on what is truly important. It also can assist us to appreciate the poverty in which most of humanity lives. Denial of items to which we have become “addicted” are best: alcohol, various types of non-medicinal drugs, unhealthy food products, television, video games or whatever our particular “demon” may be. On the positive side, developing and enhancing our prayer life is certainly an honorable Lenten goal. Prayer is our conversation with God and as the Epistle of St. James observes, it should lead to acts of charity. In these acts of generosity we also have the Lord Jesus as a model. His entire public life, especially His cures, was performed to assist people in their infirmities.

To support our Lenten efforts, our parish community has already sponsored a pre-Lenten Mission conducted by the Dominican Preachers. We thank Fathers Ron and Bob for their excellent program of prayer and reflection.

During the Lenten season, our parish will offer the following:

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated each Friday during Lent following the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

The St. Vincent DePaul Truck will be on Kessel Street on Sunday, March 8th from 8:30 to 12:00 noon. Some of the clothes collected are sold in order to support other “Vincentian” ministries such as the corporal work of mercy of burying the indigent.

Parish Soup Supper – Monday, March 16th at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Hall. The presenter will be Sister Tesa Fitzgerald, CSJ. founder of “Hour Children”. “Hour Children” provides care and support for incarcerated mothers and their children.

The Journey, Cross & Crucifixion – a live presentation of the Stations of the Cross. Join Jesus in His trial, His journey through the streets of Jerusalem and his final moments on the Cross – Sunday, March 22nd, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Parish Penance Service (in addition to the usual Penance schedule each Saturday from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m. in the Eucharistic chapel.) Monday, April 6th at 7:30 p.m. This service is celebrated as a Day of Penance throughout Long Island, in both the Dioceses of Brooklyn and Rockville Centre.

Annual Catholic Appeal will begin later this month. Among its goals is assistance to parishes in need and as well as support for Catholic Charities Programs that assist the poor of Brooklyn and Queens. Similarly, it provides funds that care for our elderly priests while also supporting the Vocation Office and the seminary system. The work of the last two is vital for the survival of our Diocesan Church. Finally, this Appeal returns the funds that exceed our goal, which is \$71,000 this year, to the parish. The Appeal has become our major parish fundraiser – in 2008, \$38,000 was returned to Our Lady of Mercy Parish! Your generous participation, particularly in the spirit of Lent, is much appreciated and crucially important.

Have a blessed and enriching Lenten season!

Monsignor John A. McGuire

Ash Wednesday

On Ash Wednesday, February 25th, Blessed Ashes will be distributed after the homily at the regular Masses at 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m. and 12 noon. There will be an extra Mass with the distribution of ashes at 7:30 p.m. The children of Our Lady of Mercy School will receive ashes at a special ceremony at 10:00 a.m. Public school students in the Religious Education classes will receive ashes at a 2:30 p.m. service to which the general public is invited.

Ash Wednesday

Packets of Ashes will be available on Ash Wednesday, February 25th, in the Sacristy and Rectory. Please take a packet if you know a **homebound** parishioner who would like to receive Ashes.

Lenten Regulations

Abstinence: All faithful Catholics, who have reached their fourteenth birthday (14) must abstain from meat and meat products on Ash Wednesday, February 25th and all the Fridays of Lent, including Good Friday (April 10th).

Fasting: All Faithful Catholics between the ages of eighteen (18) and fifty nine (59) inclusive are bound to fast on Ash Wednesday, February 25th and Good Friday, April 10th. On those days, only one full meal and two very light meals may be taken. Food between meals should be avoided.

Easter Duty: After First Communion, all Catholics are obliged to receive our Lord in Holy Communion at least once a year as a bare minimum. This obligation may be met between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday (June 7th). No Catholic should regard this fundamental obligation lightly. If a person finds him/herself in serious (i.e. mortal) sin, then a Sacramental Confession should also be made before reception of the Eucharist (cf. Pastor's Message for times).

These obligations, though certainly less onerous than in the past are precepts of the Church and are not to be taken lightly by anyone serious about his/her faith commitment. All the Fridays of the year still have a penitential character. Abstinence, though no longer an obligation, is strongly recommended by our Bishops. It may be substituted by practices of voluntary self-denial or personal penance, including prayer, works of charity or acts of temperance and mortification.

SCHOOL NEWS**Monday, February 23rd,**

-Classes resume.

Registration for NEW students for 2009-2010 is taking place after February 23rd, 2009. Please call the school office 718 793 2086 for information.

Divine Mercy Schedule

| | | |
|-----------------|---------|--|
| 02-25-09 | 6:30 pm | Bible Study Fr. Joe Cadusale |
| | 7:30 pm | DM Devotion and Chaplet |
| | 8:00 pm | Fellowship at the Parish Hall. All attendees welcome |

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Each year we provide an opportunity for adults who, for whatever reason, were never Confirmed. Any adult who is interested in being prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation is urged to contact Sr. Ann Barbara at 718-261-6285. Classes will be held in the Convent and conclude with the reception of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2009. If you or someone you know can benefit from this opportunity, please contact Sister as soon as possible.

RCIA**RITE OF SENDING TO ELECTION**

On March 1st at the Noon Mass we will celebrate with our Candidates as they request our prayers and ask to join us at the Easter Vigil to be fully initiated in the Catholic faith. At Mass they will sign scrolls, which will be taken to Bishop DiMarzio that afternoon at Christ the King High School. There, at a beautiful prayer service, they will be blessed and called by Name (elected) as worthy to proceed. This prayer is called the Rite of Election and we ask you to remember Angela Chu, Liana Huie, Olivia Huie and Gwendolyn Nieves as they use these forty days of Lent to ready their hearts to be reborn in the life of Jesus at Easter time.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

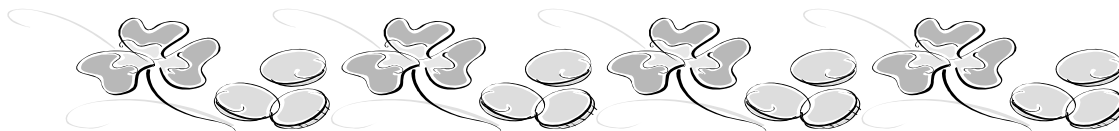
Religious Education classes for Grades 1-6 and our Confirmation students will resume this week.

BLOOD DRIVE THIS SUNDAY

Our Lady of Mercy has sponsored several very successful Blood Donation Drives in the past. There is still a **CRITICAL BLOOD SHORTAGE** and the New York Blood Center is asking again for our help. Our Lady of Mercy is sponsoring a **BLOOD DRIVE TODAY, Sunday, February 22, 2009** from 9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. in the Lower Church Hall. Please know that walk-ins are always welcome and consider giving the gift of life by making a blood donation this Lent.



Blood Drive
This Sunday!



OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH

Join us for some good old Irish
Fun and Entertainment
at the

ST. PATRICK'S DINNER DANCE

Date: Saturday, March 14th, 2009

Time: 8:00pm – Midnight

Where: Parish Hall

Dinner, Dancing, Raffles and a little Irish Entertainment
Beer & Wine will be Served

Cost: \$40 per person

(Please feel free to BYOB for additional beverages)

Please contact Breda or Sinéad for reservations, fill out the form below
and mail or drop off with your check before March 8th, 2009:

OLM Rectory, 70-01 Kessel Street, Forest Hills, NY 11375

Breda Buckley (718 607 2182) or Sinead Whelan (718 275 4894)

Please make checks payable to: **Our Lady of Mercy**

Name: _____

Of Guests: _____

Seating Preference: _____

Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Total Payment: \$ _____