

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday March 21st
5:00 PM Mary & James Kelly

Sunday March 22nd
8:30 AM Fortunato Aliperti
10:00 AM Parish Mass
12:00 PM Katherine Currier
6:00 PM Zahide Prono

Monday March 23rd
7:00 AM
8:30 AM Eleanor Shavel & George & Elizabeth Schaber

12:00 PM Mass of Thanksgiving

Tuesday March 24th
7:00 AM
8:30 AM Robert Almeida
12:00 PM Fiorella & Walter Perugini

Wednesday March 25th
7:00 AM
8:30 AM Louis & Pauline Pfohl
12:00 PM William Walters

Thursday March 26th
7:00 AM
8:30 AM Fortunato Aliperti
12:00 PM

Friday March 27th
7:00 AM Rebecca Alessandra Marks
8:30 AM Michael, Caroline, Michael Sassi, Jr. & Roland Pugliese

12:00 PM Rebecca Alessandra Marks

Saturday March 28th
8:30 AM Ethel Rohr
5:00 PM Jozef Grebowiec

Sunday March 29th
8:30 AM Luke Robert Gillespie
10:00 AM Parish Mass
12:00 PM Roseline Okorie
6:00 PM Walter Perugini

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

James Schnepf, Janis Wallenstein, Jack & Madison Lewinger, Josephine Kelly, John (Jack) Sullivan, David Glass, Maureen Crowley, Teodora Tamburelo, Bob Lancer, Thomas Kelly, The Mestrich Family, Barbara Silver, Theresa Polancic, Howard Diamond, Nicholas Gagliano, Gertrude Klienklous, Jane Sanders, Ana Stafford, Kaitlin & Amanda Birck, Thomas J. Scaturro, John Kelly, Barbara German

Please pray for those in our armed services, especially:

Edy Claudio & Robert Claudio
Stephen Deere, Lt. Brendan T. Cremins, US Navy
Captain Eileen Gillespie U.S. Army
Sgt. Bryan Jiencke, USMC
S/Sgt. Teague A. Liming, USAF
Staff Sgt. James McKeon, US Army
Pvt. Jonathan Mezzancello
SPC Larry Saume
Lt. Julianne LoMacchio Palumbo U.S. Navy
Lt. Gregory M. Morison, U.S. Navy

Remember
Our
Military

**PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED**

Joan Koenderman
Helen Speros
Ralph J. Maresca

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

BANNS II: John Flynn & Christine Curcio

BANNS I: Mario Asaro –OLM &
Jessica Tornatore - Holy Spirit, New Hyde Park

BREAD AND WINE

Many thanks for this week's donation for the Bread and Wine given in memory of:

Edna Martin
by
Mary Julian & Catherine Salaco

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – MARCH 22nd**

-Fourth Sunday of LENT.
-Children's "Liturgy of the Word" the 10:00 AM Mass.
-**"JOURNEY, CROSS, AND CRUCIFIXION"**
presentation – church at 3:00 PM (see notice below).

MONDAY – MARCH 23rd

-RCIA – Convent at 7:30 PM.
-Scripture –study/prayer group – rectory at 7:30 PM.

TUESDAY – MARCH 24th

-OLM School "Garden Club" – 2:30 PM.
-Cub Scouts – Parish Hall at 7:00 PM.

WEDNESDAY – MARCH 25th

-Solemn Feast of the ANNUNCIATION.
-OLM Golden Age Club meeting – Parish Hall at noon.
-“Divine Mercy” prayer group – 7:30 PM.

THURSDAY – MARCH 26th

-Bereavement meeting – rectory at 11:00 AM.
-Basketball program **"AWARDS NIGHT"** - Parish Hall – 3:00 to 9:00 PM.

FRIDAY – MARCH 27th

-Daisy/Brownie Girl Scouts – Parish Hall –2:45-5:00 PM.
-Cadette Girl Scouts – Parish Hall - 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

SATURDAY – MARCH 28th

- Important Parent-Child Sacrament meeting – Parish Hall – 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.
-Junior Girl Scouts – Rectory meeting room at 10:30 AM.
-Confessions – 4:00 to 4:45 PM.
-Filipino Mass & Social – Parish Hall at 6:30 PM.

SCHOOL NEWS**THURSDAY MARCH 26th**

-DISMISSAL at 11:30 a.m.
-Report Card Conferences 12:30 - 2:30 PM and 6-8 PM

Dear Parishioners:

In last week's bulletin I addressed the question of legislature pending in the Assembly in Albany that would be grossly discriminatory. The legislature in question would target private but not public institutions in the State. The bill proposes to introduce a one year open window in the statute of limitations for alleged sex abuse cases. These allegations could extend back many decades. It would be virtually impossible to defend against an allegation extending back many years. Files may no longer exist, memories falter, witnesses, if not the defendant, are deceased. I wrote at some length about the efforts made by the Diocese for those alleging child sex abuse, and similarly the steps taken against the alleged perpetrators. Deacon Kandra at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs addressed the exact same issue in his column last week. My writing style tends toward the ponderous so I am re-publishing Deacon Kandra's article in our bulletin. It is written in a lighter and briefer style. If you save the weekly bulletins, I would urge that you also read my article from last week.

Monignor McGuirl

A Grand Thank-You

Our St. Patrick's Dance on Saturday, March 14th, was a rave success. Everyone who attended had a wonderful time. Special thanks must go to The Dance Committee: Breda Buckley and Gerry and Sinead Whelan. The Committee was assisted by Pat and Carol Gorman, Claudia and Chris Dukas, Danielle Tommaso, James Dukas, Masters Alex Dukas and Mark Tommaso, Jason Zivkovic, Kay Yaretenko and Greg Kelly.

Many thanks to them and to the following who helped sponsor the Dance: Breda Buckley, Helen Griffin and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Carolina and Gary Gruner at the Wine Shoppe on 69th Avenue; The Keogh Family, Sinead and Gerry Whelan and the Bonfire Grill; Declan Morrison and Morrison's Bar & Restaurant on Metropolitan Avenue; Red Davis and Clancy's Bar & Restaurant; John Cregan and The Woodhaven House on Woodhaven Boulevard. Also thanks go to Aine Looney-Taylor and Cassidy's Bar & Grill; Declan O'Reilly & DJ Kitchen & Bath; the Archbishop Molloy High School Pipe Band; The Whelan Sisters Dancers; Frank's Deli; Rocking Rock & Night Beat and a local clergyman with a skill in baking Irish Soda Bread.

Annual Catholic Appeal

This weekend is the In-Pew segment of the Annual Diocesan Appeal. The In-pew segment is meant to reach parishioners who have not otherwise been solicited. Our parish is fortunate that we have many new young parishioners and many visitors so it is quite possible that these folks have not been reached. The In-Pew Envelopes will be found inserted in the weekend bulletin and we ask you to use them as your means permit.

During this economic turndown, many families are experiencing financial stress; therefore, I can only ask that each parish family do what is feasible for them. All funds over our goal of \$71,000 will be returned to us. Last year the parish received \$38,000 from the Appeal. In fact, the Appeal has become our major fund raiser.

Thank you,
Monignor McGuirl

EUCCHARISTIC ASSEMBLY

On March 28th our First Communion students and a parent will gather in the Lower Church Hall at 10:00 AM. This gathering will be a wonderful opportunity for parents to interact with their children and other families in understanding the Eucharist.



“Devastating”

It’s no secret that we’re living through some hard times now.

But brace yourselves.

A bill working its way through the New York State Assembly could make those times infinitely harder for countless Catholics in our Diocese and around the State.

One legislator (and critic of the bill) Assemblyman Vito Lopez has called its potential impact “devastating,” adding, “the Catholic Church is going to suffer tremendously in a number of ways.”

Let me count the ways: Buildings may have to be sold, programs suspended, budgets drastically cut. The effect on jobs, schools and parishes could be seismic.

The bill in question is called *The Child Victims’ Act of New York*, sponsored by Democratic Assemblywoman Margaret Markey from Queens. It would temporarily lift the statute of limitations and allow more victims of child sexual abuse to file lawsuits.

But by design, it targets private institutions such as the Church while keeping in place tight restrictions on suits against public institutions, including schools. (This even though studies show a significant rate of alleged abuse in public schools. By one account, from the Associated Press, there were more than 500 hundred abuse claims made against teachers in New York public schools during a ten year period and about 300 claims against Catholic clergy over a period of fifty years.)

What this means, in broad outline, is that suits could be made against businesses, non-profits and religious organizations going back forty or fifty years or more. But as *The Tablet* pointed out last week, “Similar incidents in public schools would be exempt.”

Are you outraged yet?

If not, consider what happened in California, where a nearly identical bill was signed into law. By the end of 2003, the year the law was passed, 96 percent of the cases filed were directed against the Catholic Church. There settlements in sex abuse cases approached nearly **two billion dollars**.

The San Diego Diocese ended up by declaring bankruptcy, selling property, and announcing that it would no longer assist parishes in need or help with construction projects. It had to slash its operating budget by 30% - laying off employees and ending some programs. The Bishop there said that he expected the payouts to result in “some damaging consequences for the mission of the church in this diocese for a number of years.”

Not far up the interstate, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, meantime, had to sell the archdiocesan Catholic Center and about fifty properties that were being held for future use. Its payout totaled more than \$600 million.

Could anything like this happen in Brooklyn and Queens?

Short answer: yes.

Bankruptcy is a distinct possibility. So is the sale of property. A spokesman for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles told *The Tablet* last week, “You very well may have to sell parishes and schools to fund settlements.”

While the so-called “Markey Bill” awaits action, Assemblyman Lopez has offered a compromise bill that the Diocese has endorsed. It levels the playing field for both public and private institutions; unlike the Markey Bill, it doesn’t create two classes of victims – or just one large target, the Church. And as Lopez’s office explained: “Think about how horrible this would be, if this bankrupted the Church, especially in the Brooklyn area, where people go there for everything, from housing to meals to all kinds of assistance.

And then there is this: the people who will ultimately pay for any alleged crimes that happened decades ago are those who had nothing to do with them: you and me.

I’d urge you to make your opposition to the Markey Bill known, and soon.

You can call the Assembly Switchboard in Albany at 1-518-455-4100

My Dear OLM Parishtoners and Friends.

After a full month's stay at the North Shore Extended Care and Re-hab facility in Manhasset, I returned back here to the rectory on March 12th to continue my re-hab and recovery from right hip replacement surgery last February 9th.

While here I am continuing "out patient" therapy at the "Professional Therapy" facility in Bayside. Presently I am going there three times a week.

Gradually, I am experiencing less pain and slowly recovering my mobility (still with help of a cane). It will be at least several months until I return to "normal" (whatever that is !). Meanwhile, I will gradually be returning to our schedule of Sunday and weekday Masses and some pastoral responsibilities.

I once again express my gratitude to all for the many prayers, cards, greetings and visits since my surgery back in early February. "THANK YOU".

Monsignor Cangelier

ADVANCE NOTICE ALTAR SERVER TRAINING



Training Sessions for boys and girls in grades 4 and up who wish to become ALTAR SERVERS for Our Lady of Mercy Parish will begin on March 31. We seek candidates – from OLM School and CCD – who are willing to make a commitment to the parish to become faithful and competent ALTAR SERVERS at our parish Masses and various liturgical services.

Our Orientation Session – the first in a series of after-school training sessions – will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2009 at 3:15 PM in the Church. All those wishing to train and become **OLM ALTAR SERVERS** are invited to attend this first session.

OLM DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITIES
03-25	7:30 PM	DM Devotion/Chaplet Praise and Worship Fellowship follows (P. Hall)
04-01	7:00 PM	Adoration/Holy Hour Fr. Alfred Guthrie, DM Chaplet
	8:30 PM	Benediction Fr. Alfred Guthrie
04-08	6:30 PM	Bible Study (P. Hall) Fr. Cadusale
	7:30 PM	DM Devotion/Chaplet (P. Hall) Fellowship follows (P. Hall)
04-15	7:30 PM	DM Chaplet/Cenacle (P. Hall) Fellowship follows (P. Hall)
04-22	7:30 PM	DM Devotion/Chaplet
04-29	7:30 PM	DM Devotion/Chaplet

RCIA – SECOND SCRUTINY

This weeks' prayers for our Elect, Angela Chu, Liana Huie, Olivia Huie and Gwendolyn Nieves will take place at the 12:00 P.M. Mass.

We will pray that they will be free of any sin and receive God's grace as the Blind Man received his faith in Jesus. May all of us make room for God's goodness by turning from sin and seeking God's forgiving grace.

EASTER FLOWERS



As we did at Christmas, we are providing opportunity for 15 families to memorialize a loved one by making a donation for Easter flowers of \$150.00. Names of all those memorialized will be published in our Bulletin, and flowers will remain on the altar and in Church for at least 3 weeks.

Each donation will provide four flowering plants – lilies, azaleas, hydrangeas and tulips. Help make this Easter magnificent! Arrangements can be made by contacting the Rectory at 718-268-6143.

THE MEMORIAL WORSHIP FUND OF OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH Forest Hills, New York

MANY THANKS for donations to the Parish Memorial Worship fund given...in heaven's splendid light to

Edna Martin
by
Anthony J. Mele

William Walters
by
Anne M. Sweeney

Helen Speros
by
Anne M. Sweeney