

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	May 30th
5:00 PM	Frank Haunss
Sunday	May 31st
8:30 AM	Maurice Rooney
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Sister Teresa Clare
6:00 PM	Albina Pintouda de Guillen
Monday	June 1st
7:00 AM	George Napolitano
8:30 AM	Heinz & Reilly Families
12:00 PM	Balin Radojka
Tuesday	June 2nd
7:00 AM	Adelina Agostinelli
8:30 AM	Rose O'Hagan & Tracy Samaritano
12:00 PM	Jack Karsten
Wednesday	June 3rd
7:00 AM	Nicole Fiorello
8:30 AM	Bill Walters
12:00 PM	Eleanor Rooney
Thursday	June 4th
7:00 AM	Parisi & Amalfi Families
8:30 AM	William Gelgano
12:00 PM	Dominica Provenzano
Friday	June 5th
7:00 AM	Richard Kelly
8:30 AM	Bill Walters
12:00 PM	Gaetano Fazio
Saturday	June 6th
8:30 AM	Mary Meehan (90th Birthday-Living Intention)
5:00 PM	Mario Bejasa, Sr.
Sunday	June 7th
8:30 AM	Gorin Dahl
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Tom & Grace Grande
6:00 PM	Fiorella Perugini

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

James Schnepf, Ana Stafford, Jane Sanders, Kaitlin & Amanda Birck, John Kelly, Barbara German, James Murphy, Francesca Cala, Toni Cunningham, Maria Panny, Maureen Crowley, David Glass, Jack Sullivan, Ann Sullivan, Peter French, Adam Sobel, Ann Kelly, Syl Cleary



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
 Pvt. Jonathan Mezzancello, SPC Larry Saume
 Lt. Julianne LoMacchio Palumbo U.S. Navy
 Lt. Gregory M. Morison, U.S. Navy
 SFC Kilsa Ciprian, US Army
 The 1174th DDSB & 873rd TC DET
 Captain Patrick L. Davis, U.S. Army (JAG)
 Patrick Hedderman
 Lt. Brendan T. Cremins, USNavy
 Pvt. Ronald Palumbo

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

Theresa Luczak
 Lawrence Canova
 Paolo DeOliveira Pinto

BREAD AND WINE

Many thanks for this week's donation for the Bread & Wine given Lovingly by

James & MaryAnn Schnepf

THIS WEEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – MAY 31st**

-Pentecost Sunday.
 -Adult Confirmation ceremony at the 10:00 AM Mass.
 -Father John Cremins celebrates his 40th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood at the 12:00 noon Mass. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall – all are invited to the Mass and reception following.

MONDAY – JUNE 1st

-Commemoration at Masses of St. Justin, Martyr.
 -OLM School and CCD Confirmation candidates' special SERVICE Mass at 7:30 PM.

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

TUESDAY – JUNE 2nd

-Ordinary liturgical time weekday.
 -Cub Scouts – Parish Hall at 7:00 PM.

WEDNESDAY – JUNE 3rd

-Commemoration at Masses of African Martyrs - St. Charles Lwanga & companions –
 -OLM Golden Age Club meeting – Parish Hall at noon.
 -“Divine Mercy” prayer group – church at 7:30 PM.

THURSDAY – JUNE 4th

-Ordinary liturgical time weekday.

FRIDAY – JUNE 5th

-Commemoration at Masses of St. Boniface, Bishop & Martyr.

-Daisy/Brownie Girls Scouts – Parish Hall – 6:00 PM.

SATURDAY – JUNE 6th

-Ordinary liturgical time weekday.
 -Rain date for Teen Club (May 30th) Car Wash.
 -Confessions – 4:00 to 4:45 PM.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy of the Word will not be held on May 31st. We will resume our program on Sunday, June 7th at the 10:00 A.M. Mass.

Join Us

On Sunday, May 31st, at 12:00 noon, Father John Cremins will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving for his fortieth anniversary as a priest of the Brooklyn Diocese. After the Mass, the parish will host a reception for Father in the Church Hall. All of our parishioners are invited to join Father Cremins on his special day.

What is the R.C.I.A.?

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a wonderful program of formation and spiritual growth for Non-Catholic adults seeking to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, and for Baptized Catholics who have not been instructed in the faith and desire Eucharist and Confirmation to complete their faith formation

Who can attend this program?

Persons who desire to learn about and join the Catholic Church, Baptized Catholics who desire to receive their sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation, and Persons baptized in another Christian tradition who desire to profess faith in the Catholic tradition and complete sacramental life in the Catholic Church.

What is the Format for preparation and instruction?

RCIA members and team meet on Monday evenings at 7:30pm. Shared prayer on the Scriptures and a presentation on one of the aspects of Catholic Faith are weekly experiences. A variety of presenters, sponsors, and our Priests assist in the formation process.

What are the Rites?

At various times in the process, the candidates experience special prayers in the context of Sunday Liturgy. These prayers, gestures or "Rites" mark steps in formation leading to the Easter Sacraments and a life of living and learning in the Catholic tradition. They enable the entire Parish to pray for and bond with the candidates as they welcome and support their journey.

Interested?

Contact any priest or Sr. Ann Barbara at 718-261-6285 for more information or to arrange an interview. You will be warmly welcomed!

OLM Book Club

The next selection for our Book Club is *Broken Open* by Elizabeth Lesser. This is a non-fiction selection that helps us focus on how difficult times can help us grow. This is a theme very much in keeping with our Catholic Spirituality and should lend itself to an interesting discussion.

Our next meeting is on June 23rd at 7:30PM in the School Library (Convent). This gathering is open to adults of all ages; all you need do is read the book and come for a stimulating conversation. You can find this at any local book store, or purchase it on-line from Amazon or Barnes and Noble. Thank You.

**FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI**

Join us for a special parish celebration of the beautiful Feast of Corpus Christi on Saturday, June 13, 2009 at the 5:00 PM Mass. Since this feast specifically highlights the Eucharist, various signs and symbols surrounding the Eucharist will be presented at the Offertory. As the Mass concludes, all are invited to walk in procession as the Blessed Sacrament is carried out to Kessel Street via the main aisle of the church and around the block to the Juno Street entrance to the Church Hall. The procession will proceed to the Church Hall for Benediction. The children who received First Holy Communion earlier this month will participate in the procession and form the Honor Guard for the Blessed Sacrament in the Church Hall. A reception, sponsored by the Eucharistic Ministers, will follow in the Church Hall. ALL ARE INVITED!

OUR LADY OF MERCY

IS PROUDLY HOSTING A BACKYARD BBQ

Come enjoy a fun evening that includes:

A BBQ Dinner, Music, Dancing & unlimited Wine & Beer

**All in your own
backyard of
Forest Hills**

Date: June 20th, 2009
Time: 7:30pm – Midnight
Location: The Community House, Borage Place
BBQ Cost: \$50 per person

**Please contact ei-
ther Gerry Whe-
lan at (917) 568
9318 or BJ Duffy at
(718) 850 9212**

Community News

The Annual Relay For Life will be held at the West Side Tennis Club on June 13th and 14th. The event helps to raise money for cancer research. Teams, volunteers, walkers and entertainers are needed. The event opens with cancer survivors taking the first lap on a designated course in the West Side Tennis Club rounds. After that lap all the participants join in. After dark a Lumnaria Service will be held to honor all the victims of this pernicious disease. To register, participate or receive additional information, log on to: <http://www.relayforlife.org/foresthillsny> or contact Taliah Duchatelier at 1-718-263-2225, ext 5511 or E-mail at: forest.hills.relay@cancer.org.

Congratulations

Prayerful best wishes are extended to our parishioners, Mrs. James Pfohl, Mrs. Lynn Pfohl Quigley and Mrs. Ann Pfohl Kirby, who will be the recipients of the Papal honor, "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" Cross (For the Church and Pontiff Cross) at a Vespers Service at 4:00 P.M. on Sunday, June 7th, 2009. They are receiving this honor, bestowed by the Holy Father, in recognition of their long-standing generosity to both their parish and the Diocese.

Many Thanks

Our parish community thanks the Officers of the Home School Association for sponsoring another magnificent Fashion Show for the ladies of the parish on Sunday, May 17th. Well done!

Also a word of thanks go to the Officers and Members of the Saint Lawrence Ruiz Society for a beautiful "Flores De Mayo" Celebration in honor of Our Blessed Mother on May 23rd. A prayerful and devout procession in honor of Our Lady was followed by Mass and a fabulous dance in the Church Hall.

CYO TRI-M BOYS' SWIM TEAM

Tryouts are being held on Wed. June 3. 6-7p.m. at the Community House pool, 15 Borage Pl., Forest Hills. New swimmers should be 6 to 13 years-old and be able to at least swim freestyle, one length of the pool. Bring a copy of your birth certificate! Registration for returning swimmers are still being accepted. Contact Head Coach, Mary Leong, at 718-793-4082, for more information.

Many thanks to Mr. Lewis J. Katz for the donation recently made to Our Lady of Mercy Church in honor of the dedication at Pebblestone Park of the Ian MacLennan Garden.

50-50 RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the May Winners of the 50-50 Raffle:
 1st Prize: Breda Buckley \$679.17
 2nd Prize: Carol McDonough \$407.50
 3rd Prize: Christine Lass \$271.66

OLM DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITIES
06-03	7:30PM	DM Devotion/Chaplet
06-10	6:30PM	Bible Study
	7:30PM	DM Devotion/Chaplet
06-17	7:30PM	DM Devotion/Cenacle Fellowship follows (P. Hall)
06-24	7:30PM	DM Devotion/Chaplet

School News

Tuesday, June 2nd

-Grade 2 class trip.
 -Grade 8 State Social Studies test.

Wednesday, June 3rd

-Grade 8 State Social Studies test.
 For additional information about ongoing registration, please call the school office at 718 793 2086.

**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

Theresa Luczak
 by
 Mary Lou Zabmiasi
 by
 Jean Hoffman
 by
 Our Lady of Mercy Adult Choir
 Lawrence Canova
 by
 Ceil Koluch

Meaningful Conversations About Prayer

Join us for an adult conversation about Prayer:

Session 1: How and why we pray

July 1 at 7:30pm or July 2 at 9:00am

Session 3: Praying with Scripture

July 15 at 7:30pm or July 16 at 9:00am

Facilitator: Sr. Ann Barbara

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I want to join on:

Wed. evenings _____ Thurs. Mornings _____

Return to Rectory by June 20th, 2009. Thank You.

Session 2: Praying with our own words

July 8 at 7:30pm or July 9 at 9:00am

Session 4: Praying with the Church's Words

July 22 at 7:30pm or July 23 at 9:00am

Dear Parishioners:

Lately we have experienced some minor pilferage in the parish buildings. It is not serious yet; nonetheless, I did invite the Police Officers from the 112th Precinct to examine our parish plant and make some timely recommendations. Among the latter, they recognized the need for a complete overhaul of our antiquated key system.

As a teenager attending old Cathedral College, I had the job of closing the Church in the evening. Some of the keys appear very familiar, which means that they have been in use for over four decades. Already the combination of the sacristy safe has been changed as have the locks on the poor boxes and candle stands. The officers also offered suggestions about doors and windows in the part of the convent now utilized by the school. They also recommended that the entrance ways to the Church and Church Hall be fitted with panic bars. Currently those doors are on a standard lock system. We hope to make a beginning on these recommendations during the summer months.

None of these alterations were considered when the last parish budget was planned. It is for reasons like this that fund raising is so important. Our weekly collections rarely exceed \$8,000.00. Often that merely covers the expenses of a given week. Yet even some of the most sophisticated and intelligent people persist in thinking that “they” have loads of money. Having been a pastor in several different parishes for over twenty years, I am yet to discover the hidden treasure troves. If anyone knows where they are, I would be most grateful for the information!

We live in the Brooklyn Diocese which is overwhelming urban and to some degree poor. We have no suburbs or rural areas. In fact in our Diocese, Forest Hills is about as close as you can come to suburbia. The “wealth” of the local Church is tied up in land. For instance, if we were to sell our parish plant, it might be worth millions of dollars, but then we would have no parish. Other people think that the Bishop can help the parishes, but it is exactly the reverse. We help him. On his own, the Bishop has no sources of income. He relies on us to assist with the various charitable and educational works of the Diocese.

Some might think that the Vatican can help, yet the Holy See usually runs in the red. Most of its services to tourist and pilgrims are free yet they can cost a huge amount of money. For instance, the upkeep, lighting and security of a building the size of St. Peter’s Basilica must be a fortune. Vatican employees require just incomes. As in a parish, salaries are a major expense. Naively some would reply that the items in the Vatican Museums could be sold. In other words we should put the patrimony of the Church and the artistic heritage of much of the civilized world on the auction block. Who would benefit? Presently those museum pieces are available to the general public at rather minimum cost. And if the proceeds of such a hypothetical sale were distributed among the thousands of parishes and church institutions world-wide, how much would each parish receive? A negligible amount at best.

Folks, financially we are on our own. If we want a parish here then we must support it. There will be some personnel changes in the next few months and we hope to save about \$41,000.00. As it is, there is no overspending and believe me, each dime is watched very carefully! In terms of support, far too many collection envelopes still contain one dollar (\$1.00) and that does not even consider those who do not use envelopes. To put things in context, shortly a dollar will amount to one fourth of the cost of a round-trip subway fare. The dollar has about the buying power of what the dime had fifty year ago.

Some people do ask for guidance on what they should give. Well, if they give a dollar a week, make it two; if five dollars, make it ten. If it’s change, then try for the dollar. We receive nothing free. The parish pays the water tax, utilities, as well as salaries, social security taxes and health benefits for its employees. The diocesan clergy pay income tax against their salaries. (Another myth is that the clergy pay no taxes. Someone should inform the government. The only clergy, who do not pay income taxes, are those who are members of religious orders. They take a vow of poverty and pay no personal taxes because they do not receive a salary. Diocesan priests, i.e. most of the priests serving the Diocese of Brooklyn, are not members of religious orders. Diocesan priests receive a very modest salary so they pay both income and social security taxes!).

As an institution, the Church is free from the real estate tax and in many instances the sales tax (this is true of all non-profits, not just churches). The Church pays for all purchases and services. Nothing is free!

Having written all of the above, I again urge you to consider the Annual Catholic Appeal. It assists Bishop DiMarzio, as the Diocesan Bishop, to support various diocesan charities, the Vocation Office, our seminarians (i.e. our future priests!) and those priests who are now elderly and/or infirm. Aside from these and other worthy causes, the Appeal assists us! Every cent over our goal of \$71,021 is returned to the parish. In former years the Appeal has become our major parish fund raiser. As of this printing, 155 donors (out of a potential of 1,189 registered families) have pledged \$61,270.00. We are still \$10,000 short of goal! \$49,512 has already been paid. Not only does the Diocese need our support but the parish needs that over-the-goal amount.

My thanks go to those who have already responded to the Bishop’s call. If you have not done so, Please consider joining them. Appeal envelopes are available on the radiator covers at the doors of the Church. Every gift, small or large, is welcome.

Monsignor McGutrl