

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	December 26th
5:00 PM	John Daly
Sunday	December 27th
8:30 AM	Thomass & Anna O'Connor
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Philomina Karcher (10th Anniversary)
6:00 PM	Goharic Prulax
Monday	December 28th
7:00 AM	Ethel Rohr
8:30 AM	Michael, Caroline, & Michael Sassi, Jr. & Roland Pugliese
12:00 PM	
Tuesday	December 29th
7:00 AM	John J. Johnston
8:30 AM	Goharik & Mark Gregorian
12:00 PM	Mary Foertsch Murphy (Living Intention)
Wednesday	December 30th
7:00 AM	Dec'd Members of Werner Family
8:30 AM	Anna Sorrentino
12:00 PM	Anni Vecchione
Thursday	December 31st
7:00 AM	Dec'd Members of Fayko Family
8:30 AM	Michael & Marguerite Kelly
12:00 PM	NO MASS
5:00 PM	Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary
8:00 PM	Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary Bi-Lingual (Latin/English)
Friday	January 1st
10:00 AM	Solemnity of Mary,
12:00 PM	Mother of God
Saturday	January 2nd
8:30 AM	Sean Hennessy (1st Anniversary)
5:00 PM	John Daly
Sunday	January 3rd
8:30 AM	Margherita & Luigi Belcastro
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Sarah Davey
6:00 PM	Peter Kreier

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

James Schnepf, Ann Sullivan, Adam Sobel, Ann Kelly, John Vecchione, Rev. James Moran, Anthony Bair, Dr. Otto von Habsburg, Dan Mussio, Maria Let, Thomas O'Neill, Ceil Koluch, Marian Herman, Cindy Schneider, Laurence Vono, Martin Keane, Jean Buff Norton, Mary Panny, Mary Aloisi, Dr. Anthony Bennardo, Maria Vega, Barbara Pannullo, Anna Krawczyk, Jack Henry, Remington Stafford, Maureen Albert, Philip Califano, Grace Zerbo, Rev. Charles Whelan, S.J., Charles Sullivan, Concetta & Vittorio Alesi

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

Patrick Henry
Angelina Pinzone
William Beam
John Aigner

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – DECEMBER 27th**

-Feast of the HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary & Joseph.

MONDAY – DECEMBER 28th

-Feast of the HOLY INNOCENTS. This Feast presents a special occasion to pray for the unborn, and for an end to the evil of abortion. Masses today at 7:00 AM – 8:30 AM - & 12:00 noon.

-No RCIA or Scripture group meetings today.

TUESDAY – DECEMBER 29th

-Fifth day in the octave of Christmas – Optional commemoration at Masses of St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr.

-No Cub Scout meeting today.

WEDNESDAY – DECEMBER 30th

-Sixth day in the octave of Christmas.

-OLM Golden Age Club meeting – Parish Hall at noon.

-No CCD Religious Instruction classes today.

-“Divine Mercy” prayer group - Church & Parish Hall beginning at 7:30 PM.

THURSDAY – DECEMBER 31st (New Year's Eve)

-Seventh day in the octave of Christmas – optional commemoration at the 7:00 & 8:30 AM Masses of St. Sylvester, Pope.

-No CCD Confirmation class today.

NEW YEAR

-Vigil Mass for New Year's Holy Day Feast – “Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God” AT 5:00 PM.

-ALSO – a bi-lingual Latin/ English Vigil Mass AT 8:00 PM.

-Second annual **NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY** – 9:00 AM in the Parish Hall - sponsored by the St. Lawrence Ruiz Society.

FRIDAY – JANUARY 1st, 2010

-Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God – A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION.

-Holy Day Masses at 10:00 AM and 12:00 noon. (Note the two Vigil Masses on Thursday, December 31st New Year's Eve. 5:00 PM and 8:00 PM (Latin/English).

SATURDAY – JANUARY 2nd

-Commemoration at the 8:30 AM Mass of Sts Gregory the Great and Gregory Nanzianzen.

-Confessions – 4:00 to 4:45 PM.

ARMED SERVICES

Edy Claudio & Robert Claudio, Stephen Deere, Captain Eileen Gillespie U.S. Army
Sgt. Bryan Jiencke, USMC, Pvt. Ronald Palumbo
S/Sgt. Teague A. Liming, USAF, Pvt. Jonathan Mezzancello, 1st Lt. Paul Lentz, USAF
Lt. Julianne LoMacchio Palumbo U.S. Navy, Lt. Gregory M. Morison, U.S. Navy
SFC Kilsip Ciprian, US Army, SPC Larry Saume, The 1174th DDSB & 873rd TC DET
Captain Patrick L. Davis, U.S. Army (JAG)



New Year's Message

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners:

While the feast of Christmas has passed, the season has not. We are now in the traditional 12 days of Christmas. They extend from Christmas Day until the Epiphany on January 6th. We have a Christmas carol that commemorates those twelve days. Often we sing “The Twelve Day of Christmas” with great merriment and cheer. Once it was much more serious.

Between 1538 and 1829, Catholics in England and areas dominated by England could not practice the Faith openly. The jingle, “The Twelve days of Christmas” was a code developed to communicate the essentials of the Faith. The repetition in the song was meant convey God’s constant renewal of His gifts to us. My “True Love” represents God.

The Partridge symbolizes Christ. The partridge will feign injury to lead predators from its defenseless nestlings. Christ was injured for us. The pear tree is the symbol of the cross on which Christ died

2 Turtle Doves symbolize the Old Testament sacrifice made by the poorest people at the birth of a son. Mary and Joseph made this offering in the Temple.

3 French Hens were valued for their beauty and rarity. They represent the gifts of the Magi and also the theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity.

4 Calling Birds symbolize the four major Old Testament Prophets, who foresaw Jesus’ coming and the Four Evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, who proclaimed His message.

5 Golden Rings equal the traditional five wounds of Christ on the cross, and also the perfect circle of faith: God’s love for us, our love for God and our love for each other. They also equal the five Sacraments then considered obligatory: Baptism, Penance, Holy Communion, Confirmation and Extreme Unction (Anointing of the Sick). They equal the first five books of the Old Testament, the Pentateuch, known as the Torah or the Law.

6 Geese a-laying represent the six days of Creation in the first of the two creation accounts in the Book of Genesis.

7 Swans a-swimming are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Seven Sacraments, the seven corporal works of mercy and the seven spiritual works of mercy.

8 Maids a-milking are the eight Beatitudes, and the eight times during the year that were then prescribed for the reception of Holy Communion

9 Ladies dancing are the nine choirs of angels around the throne of God.

10 Lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments

11 Pipers piping are the eleven apostles remaining after Judas’ betrayal and who would proclaim the Resurrection.

12 Drummers drumming are the 12 minor Old Testament prophets, the 12 creedal statements of The Apostles Creed and also the ancient 12 tribes of Israel, the 12 Apostles, the 12 fruits of the Holy Spirit. Twelve in the Scriptures often represents completion of God’s good time.

As we complete another year of faith in God’s good time, our entire staff joins me in wishing you a blessed and Happy New Year.

Monsignor McGuirl



Our deepest gratitude to all those who donated gifts to our Giving Tree Project. The gifts have been distributed to the various charities and many will have a brighter Christmas due to your continued generosity.

The Beginning Experience

If you are suffering the heartache of divorce, widowhood or separation, think of weekend away for a lifetime of change. The next weekend is February 19th through the 21st, 2010. For information and reservations, please call John at (516) 822-0635 or Karen at (201) 865-6784 or Jim at (718) 474-3779

NYS Office of Mental Health

Our parish resident, Father Iantosca is one of two full-time chaplains at Creedmore Psychiatric Center at 79-25 Winchester Boulevard in the Queens Village section of Queens County. The Center's Family Care Program is looking for dedicated individuals who would be willing to assist a person recovering from mental illness. These providers would assist the individual recovering from mental illness by helping to develop life skills, encouraging and escorting residents to required appointments and programs, providing room and board and monitoring medication.

Family Care Staff works closely with these volunteer providers. If interested, please contact Father Iantosca at 718-264-4072 or Ms. Veronica Burke at 718-264-3986.

SNOW SHOVELING

Kidz Care will again be out shoveling snow. Phone Brandi at 718-986-2707 for information.

OLM Book Club

The next selection for our Book Club is *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery. Our next meeting is on January 14th 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 bookstore, or purchase it on-line from Amazon or Barnes and Noble. Thank You.



ST. VINCENT de PAUL CLOTHING DRIVE

Due to the inclement weather the St. Vincent de Paul truck was unable to be here on December 20th. We have re-scheduled for them to come on Sunday, January 3rd from 8:30 A.M. to Noon.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Wednesday classes will not be held on December 30th or January 6th.

Classes will resume on January 13, 2010.

The Thursday Confirmation Class will not be held on December 31st. The class will resume on January 7, 2010.

OLM DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE DECEMBER 2009

12-30-09 7:30 PM Meeting canceled due to
Holidays

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our faith community all those who were baptized in the month of December 2009:

Gabriel David Stalzer-Giraldo
Lucas Matthew Holloway

BREAD AND WINE

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

The Intentions of the Morison Family
by
Frank & Ann Morison

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

Joe DeVoy
by
Doris DeVoy

William Lynam
by
Gallo Family

PAULINE BOOKS AND MEDIA

Here's where you'll find the gifts that can truly touch the hearts of those you love. Pauline Books and Media, 64 W. 38th Street, New York, NY, wants to give you a gift this Christmas Season. Pauline Books and Media is offering a discount of 15% on a purchase of \$40.00 or more between November 27 and December 31, 2009. A copy of this bulletin must be presented to receive the discount. Discount does not apply to product already discounted, or to dated material. This offer is valid only at location listed here. Limit one coupon per customer. Feel free to make copies of this coupon and give it to your friends.. For more information, call 212-754-1110.

COMMUNITY NEWS

-Holy Name of Jesus School, Windsor terrace, Brooklyn will celebrate its 125th in January 2010. For more information about festivities please call 718-768-7629

-E-WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

Participate in an environmentally responsible event that will prevent your electronic waste from entering into a landfill and polluting our environment. Recycle your unwanted electronic equipment (including computers, fax machines, scanners, laptops, monitors, typewriters, copiers, cameras, cell phones, televisions, printers, telephones, servers, PDA's, and batteries) on Saturday, January 9, 2010 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the District Office of Senator Joe Addabbo, Jr. (159-53 102 Street, Howard Beach). For more information about this event or e-waste recycling, please contact Sen. Addabbo's Office at 718-738-1111.

OUR LADY OF MERCY GIFT

CARD PROGRAM

Our Lady of Mercy Gift Card Program is now online! Online ordering offer:

- Convenience – order anytime from any computer
 - Access to hundreds of vendors – online ordering offers you access to a greater variety of vendors and card denominations
 - Reloadable cards – 24 different vendors have reloadable cards and the list continues to grow.
- Go to www.glscrip.com to see the list of cards available and the register online and set up a free Family Account!

Jobs Available

The United States Constitution provides that there shall be a nation-wide census every ten years in order to determine representation in the House of Representatives. The next census is scheduled for 2010. The Census Bureaus needs workers, both clerical and field. Hours and location are flexible and both full-time and part-time positions are available. For more information, call 1-866-861-2010 or E-Mail: www.2010censusjobs.gov

