

**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>January 30th</b>
5:00 PM	Joan Koenderman
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 31st</b>
8:30 AM	Edmund, Amelia & Ada Forno
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Anita Carravaggio
6:00 PM	John & Stephen Hickey
<b>Monday</b>	<b>February 1st</b>
7:00 AM	Oskar Bedacht
8:30 AM	Frances Rinaldo
12:00 PM	Bridget Gilmartin Doran
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>February 2nd</b>
7:00 AM	Oskar Bedacht
8:30 AM	Mary O'Driscoll (Living Intention)
12:00 PM	Krawczyk Family (Living Intention)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>February 3rd</b>
7:00 AM	Oskar Bedacht
8:30 AM	Bonifacia Manalo
12:00 PM	Betty Krimper
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>February 4th</b>
7:00 AM	Patrick Collis
8:30 AM	Harry & Florence Lubeck
12:00 PM	Frank Walsh
<b>Friday</b>	<b>February 5th</b>
7:00 AM	Oskar Bedacht
8:30 AM	James Kickel
12:00 PM	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>February 6th</b>
8:30 AM	Elena Fellin
5:00 PM	Mary & Sabino Camporese
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>February 7th</b>
8:30 AM	Mary Tykowski
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Peter Perrucci (Birthday Wishes)
6:00 PM	Bill Lynam

**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'Niall, 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, Remington Stafford, Maureen Albert, Philip Califano, Grace Zerbo, Rev. Charles Whelan, S.J., Charles Sullivan, Concetta & Vittorio Alesi, Michael Minischetti, Mary O'Driscoll, Frank Morison, Zoraya Espliat, Justin McAdams, Dina Fabiitti, Rose Bruno

**ARMED SERVICES**

Edy Claudio & Robert Claudio,  
 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)  
 Patrick Hedderman, Lt. Brendan T. Cremins, US Navy  
 Timothy M. Gorman, Chief Hospital Corpsman, US Navy

**THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH****SUNDAY – JANUARY 31<sup>st</sup>**

-Fourth Sunday in ORDINARY liturgical time.  
 -Beginning of *CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK* at the 10:00 AM Mass. Hospitality Hour in the Parish Hall following the Mass. All are welcome.

-BOOK FAIR in the Parish Hall – 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

-Teen Club Mass at 6:00 PM followed by a social gathering the Parish Hall. All teens welcome.

**MONDAY – FEBRUARY 1<sup>st</sup>**

-Ordinary liturgical time weekday Masses.

-Applications for OLM School available today.

-Scripture Study Group – 7:30 PM -Rectory

-RCIA – 7:30 PM in the Convent Meeting Room

**TUESDAY – FEBRUARY 2<sup>nd</sup>**

-Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple at the Masses.

-“Holy Spirit” prayer group – rectory at 9:00 AM.

-Cub Scouts Parish Hall at 7:00 PM.

**WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 3<sup>rd</sup>**

-Commemoration at the Masses of St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr, traditional Blessing of Throats follow each Mass.

-OLM Golden Age Club at noon in the Parish Hall.

-CCD Religious Instructions – church at 2:15 PM.

-Census Bureau Training – school meeting room from 5:00 to 8:00 PM.

-Add: Divine Mercy 7:30 PM in Church

**THURSDAY – FEBRUARY 4<sup>th</sup>**

-Ordinary liturgical time weekday Masses.

-CCD Confirmation class – rectory at 4:00 PM.

**FRIDAY – FEBRUARY 5<sup>th</sup>**

-Commemoration at the Masses of St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr.

-Daisy Scouts – 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM – LCH

-Men's Club meeting and *CARD PARTY* in the Parish Hall – 7:00 to 10:00 PM.

**SATURDAY – FEBRUARY 6<sup>th</sup>**

-Commemoration at the 8:30 Mass of St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs.

-First Reconciliation children – “Mini Retreat” - school meeting room at 1:00 PM-3:00PM.

-Confessions – 4:00 to 4:45 PM.

**Catholic Schools Week**

Catholic Schools Week begins this week and children from the school will play major roles in the liturgy at the 10:00 Mass this Sunday. After the Mass there will be hospitality for everyone in the Church Hall. All are welcome.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD**

The Children's Liturgy of the Word will not be held on January 31st, February 7th or February 14th.

Our program will resume on February 21st at the 10:00 A.M. Mass.

**THANK YOU**

Our deepest gratitude to all who participated in the CCD Bake Sale on January 24th. \$450.00 was raised and will be sent to Sisters in Haiti to help ease the suffering.

Dear Parishioners;

In two weeks we will complete this section of "Ordinary Time" (it resumes after the Easter Season). Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. Meanwhile we will celebrate two popular Catholic feasts: the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the temple (also called the Purification of the Blessed Virgin) on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and the feast of St Blaise on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Jewish custom at Our Lord's time demanded that a woman be purified forty days after the birth of a child. She was expected to present herself to the Jewish priests and make the appropriate sacrifice. Then she was "purified". The former Christian custom of "churching" a woman after childbirth may well have found its roots in this Jewish tradition. The notion behind the tradition was that contact with anyone who had brushed against the most profound mysteries: life or death (or blood, which was thought to convey life) excluded that person from Jewish worship.

In Our Lord's parable of the Good Samaritan, this belief may have motivated the apparent callousness of the Levite and priest who ignored the man who was robbed. To touch that bleeding man would have rendered them "unclean" and unable to perform their functions in the temple. In telling the parable Jesus impressed upon His listeners the idea that charity preceded even ritual laws.

The feast of the Presentation emphasizes Jesus' first appearance in the house of His Father. The Temple in Jerusalem would feature largely in His later life. In the early centuries, in Rome, a procession with lighted candles was held to symbolize the Light of the World entering that temple. From this developed the custom of blessing candles on the Feast of the Presentation, thus giving the feast its old English title of "Candlemas" (the Mass said on the day candles were blessed).

St Blaise (Blasé) was a bishop in fourth century Armenia and eventually was martyred. He was known as a kind and compassionate man. The story is told that on the way to his execution, he cured a boy who was choking on a fishbone. Since then, the tradition developed of blessing throats on St. Blaise's Day. Due to the proximity of Candlemas, blessed candles were formed in a cross and held against the throat during the blessing. This blessing is still very popular and performed in the traditional manner.

One of the hallmarks of Catholicism is a profound appreciation of the Incarnation. God becomes One of us in every way. Jesus of Nazareth became the human face, hands, feet, voice and actions of the Ineffable God. From this central belief, there developed a deep respect for material creation and things made from it. Nature has a numinous value. It can reveal to us something of its Creator. Simple things: water, unleavened bread, wine and oil not only point us toward God but in the Sacraments make Him present to us. Even ashes, candles or palm branches used properly can give us a glimpse of the Almighty.

The feasts of the Presentation and St. Blaise remind us that God entered the ordinariness of physical human life in Jesus of Nazareth. He shared our humanity so that we could share in His divinity. For this we rejoice and are glad!

Monsignor McGuirl

### Father Okorie

Many parishioners have asked how they might reach Father Chris Okorie. In a recent E-Mail to Monsignor McGuirl, Father requested that any overland mail to him be addressed: Father Christopher Okorie, c/o Rev. Chux Okochi, PO Box 327, Lynbrook, New York, 11563. Father's E-Mail address is: kriskenedy@yahoo.com

### SNOW SHOVELING

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

### SCHOOL NEWS

Our Lady of Mercy School will host an Open House on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 from 9:00 AM until 11:00 AM for prospective students and their parents. Visitors will be given a tour of the school and information about our various programs. If you are interested in seeing our school but can't attend the Open House, please call the School Office at 718-793-2086 to set up an appointment. We are pleased to announce that we will be expanding our three-year old program to a Full Day Program. Parents of three-year olds will have the option of placing their children in a full-day or half-day program beginning September 2010!

### MILITARY NEWS

#### -A Thank You from Afghanistan

Here is an excerpt from an email received today from Tim Gorman, who is currently serving in Afghanistan:

*"E-mail has just been restored, and I just received your Christmas card. Thank you and please thank the Parish for their prayers, we definitely need them this time around."*

#### -A Safe Homecoming

Many thanks to all for the continued prayers for my nephew **Capt. Stephen Deere, US Army**, as he was serving in the Middle East. Stephen has thankfully returned safely from his deployment and is with his family at Camp Riley, Kansas. **When you have a chance, please remove him for the military list in both the Mirror and bulletin printings to make room for the others serving so proudly.** Again many thanks to all for their thoughtfulness and all your hard work publishing the information.

Sincerely, Kathleen Murphy

### Next Book Club Selection

Parishioners looking for a shorter, uplifting and meaningful book may want to join us in reading Mitch Albom's newest book, **Have A Little Faith**.

This is a true story of friendship and self-discovery, It can be purchased at any major bookstore or on-line and it traces a relationship that helps the author redefine the place of God in his own life. It is a book about life's purpose and the many ways we can lose and find that purpose again. It is the perfect pre- Lenten read for any of us interested in dealing with the harder realities life throws at each of us. Book Club meeting date is Feb. 18th at 7:30 in the School Library (Convent).

### Local News

-Dominican Village at 565 Albany Avenue, Amityville, NY will host a "Queen of the Rosary Academy Reunion for all graduates and former faculty members. This event will be at Sister Helen Butler, OP. Hall at 12:00 P.m. on March 6th, 2010

-On Tuesday, March 16th, "Stories and Songs of Ireland" by story-teller/musician/teacher, Jim Hawkins will also be presented at Sister Helen Butler OP. Hall at 7:00 P.M.

In formation for both events may be obtained by calling 1-631-842-6618.

### GUY'S NITE OUT

Calling all guys 21 and over: Looking for something to do on Friday February 5, 2010 from 7:00 to 11:00? Come join us for this men only RELAXING event for a night of cards, food, and drink and just hanging out at Our Lady of Mercy Hall. Admission is \$15.00 and the card game stakes are no more than \$.50 to a \$1.00. Please R.S.V.P. Jim Golden at : [jimmyg354@verizon.net](mailto:jimmyg354@verizon.net) by Monday, February 1, 2010. Hope to see you all there and feel free to bring a friend or two!

### ALUMNI REUNIONS

**St. Margaret Alumni** – On Sunday, March 7, 2010, St. Margaret's Parish will be hosting an ALL YEAR REUNION celebrating 150 years of St. Margaret Parish. The celebration will begin with Mass at 12 Noon, followed by lunch in the Parish Center. Tickets are \$25.00 per adult and \$15.00 up to age 15. There will be pictures, yearbooks and a tour of the school. RSVP by February 5<sup>th</sup>. Payments are due by February 12<sup>th</sup>. Contact Lisa Ann Verdi-Colalella at 718-894-7817 (evenings) or 347-865-2250

**Bishop McDonnell High School Alumni** – The Bishop McDonnell High School Reunion will be held on Saturday, March 27, 2010 from 12 Noon to 5:00 PM at the former Bishop McDonnell building. Classes graduating in years ending in "0" and "5" will be honored. All graduates of 30s and 40s classes are welcome. For specific info, contact Rita Monaghan-Maloney ('59) at 718-857-2700 Ext. 2253 or [rmaloney@blmhs.org](mailto:rmaloney@blmhs.org).

### WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

**MARRIED COUPLES:** Valentine's Day is coming soon. What is the greatest gift you can give each other this Valentine's Day? It is the gift of LOVE! Deepen your love, faith and closeness with each other by attending a special Valentine's Marriage Encounter Weekend on February 12 – 14, 2010. Info/registration: email: [marriageencounterbq@gmail.com](mailto:marriageencounterbq@gmail.com). Visit our website at [www.mygmgwwme.org](http://www.mygmgwwme.org) or call 877-NYS-WWME.

### Available

The rectory has three wheelchairs and two walkers in storage. If any parishioners have a need for them, they are welcome to call us at 1-718-268-6143 to arrange for a pick-up.

### ATTENTION

### COOKS – BAKERS – CHEFS

If you are interested in working on the second edition of the **OUR LADY OF MERCY COOKBOOK**, please leave your name and phone number at the Rectory. Thank You!

### Project Andrew

On Sunday, January 31st, the next Project Andrew will be held at the Pope John Paul II House of Discernment (341 Highland Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY 11207)

For more information, please call Father Kevin Sweeney, the Vocation Director or Father Kevin Abels, the associate Vocation Director at: 718-827-2454. Fax: 718-827-2167 or Email: [vocations@diobrook.org](mailto:vocations@diobrook.org).

### OLM DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ACTIVITIES</u>
02-03-10	7:30 pm	DM Devotion
	8:00 pm	Eucharistic Exposition
	9:00 pm	Fellowship
02-10-10	7:30 pm	Cenacle of Divine Mercy at the Parish Hall
	8:30 pm	Fellowship
02-17-10	7:30 pm	DM Devotion
	8:00 pm	Praise and Worship
	9:00 pm	Fellowship
02-24-10	7:30 pm	Cenacle of Divine Mercy at the Parish Hall
	8:30 pm	Fellowship
03-03-10	7:00 p.m.	DM Devotion
	7:30 p.m.	Healing Mass
03-10-10	7:30 p.m.	DM Cenacle
		Fellowship – Parish Hall
03-17-10	7:30 p.m.	DM Devotion and Chaplet
		Praise and Worship
		Fellowship – Parish Hall
03-24-10	7:30 p.m.	DM Cenacle
		Fellowship – Parish Hall



OLM Teen Club Welcomes 2010 -

Let's take it to another level!

Sunday, January 31 - Teen Mass at 6 p.m. and Teen Club from 7 to 9 p.m. IN THE SCHOOL GYM.

This is not to be missed!

Video Gaming night and Hands-on demo of the latest ID'ing technology.

Challenge your friends in an Xbox and Wii tournament.

(Bring your favorite games.)

Grades 8 and up only please.

**ADVANCE NOTICE**

**BLOOD DRIVE**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

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 will be sponsoring a BLOOD DRIVE on Sunday, February 28, 2010 from 9:00 AM until 2:30 PM in the Lower Church Hall. Please consider giving the gift of life by making a blood donation. For more information and/or to make a blood donation appointment, please call Sue Karcher at the Rectory Office (268-6143).



**50-50 RAFFLE WINNERS**

Congratulations to the January Winners of the 50-50 Raffle:

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize:	Rose Klie	\$483.34
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize:	Dennis Burke	\$290.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize:	Marianne Albert	\$193.33

Save the Date

**St. Patrick's Dinner Dance**

Saturday, March 13, 2010

7:30 PM – Midnight

LIVE BAND

The Rock Club

Dinner, Beer and Wine will be served

Please contact the following to make your reservation:  
 Gerry Whelan – 917-568-9318, Breda Buckley – 718-607-2182 or  
 Sinead Whelan – 917-749-1513

**Local News**

-The Queens Jewish Community Council will sponsor a presentation entitled "Weathering the Economic Storm" on February 7th, 2010 from 9:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. For further information, please call QJCC at 1-718-544-9033.

-The Queens Jewish Community Council will also sponsor a Delegate Assembly on Sunday, January 31st, 2010 at 2:00 P.M. The topic will be "What We All Should Know About Senior Health Care Options". A Panel Discussion will concern: Seniors' Rights, Home Care, Assisted Living, Rehabilitation, and Nursing Home Care.

**Jobs Available**

**Census Workers**

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. A written eligibility test is required. To register for the test, which will be given on Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 25 at the Catholic Charities Community Center in Astoria, please call 347-231-1140. For more information about the census, call 1-866-861-2010 or e-mail: [www.2010censusjobs.gov](http://www.2010censusjobs.gov) or [www.us-census-jobs.110mb.com](http://www.us-census-jobs.110mb.com). For more information, call 1-866-861-2010 or E-Mail: [www.2010censusjobs.gov](http://www.2010censusjobs.gov)

**400 SECURITY OFFICERS NEEDED**

Come join Securitas and the New York Yankees to work a seasonal position at the New Yankee Stadium. You must commit to attending all 83 home games. The starting salary is \$10.35 per hour. For details, contact Securitas at 212-629-5973, Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. To apply online, go to [www.securitasjobs.com](http://www.securitasjobs.com).

**COMING IN LENT**

**AWAKEN YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH**

Sometimes important things get away from us— things like faith. Is this you or someone you know?

Too busy?

Not been to church in awhile or not attending regularly?  
 Children asking questions about faith that you're not sure how to answer?

Looking for an opportunity to explore, deepen or reconnect with your faith?

*Awakening Faith* may be just right for you. This six-session series includes topics such as "Spirituality: What's the Buzz?" "Can I Accept God's Mercy?" "Can the Mass Make My Life Meaningful?" and "The Church and Me." You can learn and ask questions...all in a friendly and confidential setting with other Catholics. Join us on the six Tuesdays of Lent – Feb 23, Mar 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 – at 7:30 PM in the Rectory Meeting Room. Registration forms will be available soon. All are welcome! For more information, call Sue at the Rectory Office (718-268-6143).