

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	February 6th
5:00 PM	Mary & Sabino Camporese
Sunday	February 7th
8:30 AM	Mary Tykowski
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Peter Perrucci (Birthday Wishes)
6:00 PM	Bill Lynam
Monday	February 8th
7:00 AM	Oskar Bedacht
8:30 AM	Bill Lynam
12:00 PM	Theresa Mescall
Tuesday	February 9th
7:00 AM	Oskar Bedacht
8:30 AM	Michael Cisternas
12:00 PM	Brother Robert Russo
Wednesday	February 10th
7:00 AM	Frank Sidlo
8:30 AM	Bolivar & Robert Almeida
12:00 PM	
Thursday	February 11th
7:00 AM	Bob Malm
8:30 AM	Joseph DiCapua
12:00 PM	Pauline Morsellino
Friday	February 12th
7:00 AM	Oskar Bedacht
8:30 AM	Dorothy Hucke
12:00 PM	Felipe Meyer (Living Intention - 70th Birthday)
Saturday	February 13th
8:30 AM	Theresa Frazer
5:00 PM	Bill Walters
Sunday	February 14th
8:30 AM	Andrzej Witkowski
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Maria Pinzon
6:00 PM	William Walters

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, Charles Sullivan, Concetta & Vittorio Alesi, Mary O’Driscoll, Frank Morison, Zoraya Espliat, Justin McAdams, Dina Fabiitti, Rose Bruno, Andy Brunetti

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

Michael Steffy
Giovanna Chechotka
Marilyn McNulty
Rose A. McNulty
Rev. Charles Whelan, S.J.
Michael Minischetti
Regina Von Habsburg

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 7th**

-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary liturgical time.
-Cub Scouts attend the 10:00 AM Mass in observance of 100th anniversary. A breakfast in the Parish Hall follows the Mass. All in the church are invited.
-The second collection today is for the annual parish FUEL collection.

MONDAY – FEBRUARY 8th

-Ordinary liturgical time weekday Masses.
-RCIA – Convent meeting room at 7:30 PM.
-Scripture study/prayer group – rectory 7:30 PM.

TUESDAY – FEBRUARY 9th

-Ordinary liturgical time weekday Masses.
-“Holy Spirit” prayer group – rectory 9:00 AM.
-Cub Scouts- Parish Hall at 7:00 PM.

WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 10th

-Commemoration at the weekday Masses of St. Scholastica, Virgin.
-OLM Golden Age Club meeting – Parish Hall at noon.
-CCD religious instructions – assemble in the church at 2:15 PM.

-“Divine Mercy” prayer group – church at 7:30 PM.

THURSDAY – FEBRUARY 11th

-Optional commemoration at the weekday Masses of Our Lady of Lourdes – also “*World Day of Prayer for the Sick*.”

-Helping Hands Meeting – 10:00 AM – Rectory
-CCD Confirmation class – rectory at 4:00 PM.
-*Rehearsal* for the upcoming OLM Home-School sponsored Talent Show - Parish Hall at 6:00 PM.

FRIDAY – FEBRUARY 12th

-Lincoln’s Birthday – (not a National Holiday today – will be observed as part of “Presidents’ Day” on Monday, February 15th). Today School and parish offices are open as usual.

SATURDAY – FEBRUARY 13th

-Ordinary liturgical time weekday Mass at 8:30 PM.
-Tri-M Boys’ Swim Team Awards Luncheon – Parish Hall at 2:00 PM.
-Confessions at 4:00 to 4:45 PM.
-Line Dancing – Parish Hall at 6:30 PM.

CHILDREN’S LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Children’s Liturgy of the Word will not be held on February 7th or February 14th.
Our program will resume on February 21st at the 10:00 A.M. Mass.

Dear Parishioners:

Those with children in Our Lady of Mercy School may be aware; your writer spends Monday afternoons with the two eighth grade classes. The timing of these two classes has its short-comings. It is after lunch and recess. The lure of the siesta is very strong! The pastor provides a break in the usual routine and therefore this class time may be somewhat more “relaxed” than the usual. At this time of the year, as our time together grows shorter, I usually invite the students to write any questions that they may have. Eventually I will attempt to answer them, if I can. Believe me, these questions can be eye openers and run the gamut from rather complex and highly nuanced moral questions to matters of simple curiosity.

Unfortunately what has been discussed on television “talk” shows often seems to form the world views of some of the students. It seems that they draw their moral perceptions more from the media than from the accumulated wisdom of a two thousand year old Christian tradition. Everything is up for grabs. The Church is spoken about as if it were an extraneous reality of which they are observers not members. Questions are often couched in terms such as: “Why does the Church permit (not permit) etc....?” with little or no realization that they are members of a Church, that has a teaching authority that has existed for two millennia and which holds a divine mandate to teach the Gospel.

This Sunday’s Gospel gives us a clue as to the establishment of that teaching authority. Last week Jesus was rejected by his townsfolk; this week by contrast, He is accepted by Peter (Simon) and his companion, who turn out to be James and John. As the Gospels make very clear, these three, Andrew and others form the initial core of Jesus’ disciples and they are delegated to share His teaching authority. The commissioning of the disciples in Matthew 28:16-20 sums this up rather concisely: “Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold I am with you always, until the end of the age”. The Apostles did exactly that and because their teaching was so counter-cultural it attracted many people who were disgusted or disenchanted with the mores of the Roman Empire at large. It involved sacrifice to be a Christian.

The successors of those apostles, our bishops and the Holy Father have the same task – to apply the Gospel to the circumstances of life in the twenty-first century. It can be slow going. Jesus obviously did not articulate a teaching for every human situation. He hardly addressed issues that did not exist in His time. Search the Scriptures and you will find nothing on the morality of nuclear arms or the death sentence to name but a few modern issues. But the Lord had plenty to say on forgiveness, mercy, compassion, and loving service to others. Basing their teachings on the Beatitudes, the Ten Commandments and the things that Jesus did address, our bishops must develop coherent Christ-centered teaching about modern circumstances

Early Councils of the Church grappled with dogmatic issues, touching on the divinity of Christ; His relationship the Father; the salvific nature of His death and Resurrection; and the intimate interpersonal life of God, that we term the Trinity. More problematic in the modern world are issues touching on morality. Though there are various gradations of importance, the moral statements of the Bishops and Holy Father bear the imprint of the Holy Spirit and no Catholic may seriously disregard them and consider him or herself as a true member of the Church. Are these teachings always articulated in the best or most timely manner? Perhaps not. Could they at times lack perspective or even sensitivity? Perhaps, but they are the authoritative teachings of our Church and our Church is the body of Christ in this world. The Lord Jesus was the Sacrament of God’s presence – Jesus’ words and actions were those of almighty God in human terms. The Church is, even with all its flaws, the face of Jesus in the world. While of divine origins it is composed at every level of sinful human beings who require redemption.

In other bulletins we can look more closely at some of these teachings but I grow more than a little concerned that, aside from the media, some of our young people may be exposed to notions contrary to the teachings of Christ and His Church. And unfortunately some of those notions may have been articulated in their homes. Should that be the case, I would remind our guardians and parents that your influence is vital – no one can take your place! Heavy is the burden to pass on to our youth the precious gift of our Faith which gives our lives their depth, purpose, meaning and destiny.

Monignor McGuirl

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





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.

OLM DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

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
03-31-10	7:30 p.m.	DM Devotion
		Praise and Worship
		Fellowship – Parish Hall

LENTEN RETREAT

Come on a simple Lenten Retreat with Fr. Ron Rolheiser's DVD Program. Sr. Ann Barbara will lead the reflections on *The Passion and The Cross* on March 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd at 7:30 PM in the Convent Meeting Room. Registration forms will be available next week.

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 8:45 AM until 2:45 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).



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).

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

Michael Minischetti
by
Sue Karcher

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

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. Payments are due by February 12th. 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.

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.

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

Save Money For Our School

As with Target, you can allot a portion of your purchases at Shop & Stop to Our Lady of Mercy School It's simple, quick and easy.

Go to stopandshop.com

Click on "our stores"

Click on "A + Rewards"

Register your S&S card, (which is free and gives frequent discounts on groceries.)

i. Enter the first three letters of your last name

ii. Enter the 13 numbers on the back of your card

iii Enter our school code: 08718

It can take up to seven days for your registration to become active, and the program ends on March 26th, so please be sure to register your cards a.s.a.p. THANKS FOR PARTICIPATING! - The Home School Association

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. Visit our website at www.mygmgwwme.org or call 877-NYS-WWME.

Pilgrimage

From May 10 to May 19th, 2010, Father Tom Gilbert (at St. Benedict Joseph Labre Church in Richmond Hill) and seminarian Sean Suckiel will be directing a pilgrimage to France. They will visit Lourdes, Ars (most appropriately in the Year of the Priest - Ars is the parish of St. John Vianney, the Cure of Ars and patron saint of parish priests), Cancale (the home of Saint Jeanne Jugan, foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor), Saint Michel and Paris (and the shrine of St. Catherine Laboure, the promoter of the Miraculous Medal). For more information, you may contact Sean Suckiel at (718) 278-1834 or seansuckiel@yahoo.com or Father Thomas Gilbert at (718) 849-4048.

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!

SNOW SHOVELING

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