

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	February 20th
5:00 PM	Helen Speros
Sunday	February 21st
8:30 AM	Rose Luce Mondesir
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Jacqueline Romas
6:00 PM	Bill Lynam
Monday	February 22nd
7:00 AM	Rudolph Holzknrecht
8:30 AM	Luigi Belcastro
12:00 PM	Claire Scott
Tuesday	February 23rd
7:00 AM	Isabella (Fritzi) Allegro (Birth Remem)
8:30 AM	Michael Minischetti
12:00 PM	
Wednesday	February 24th
7:00 AM	Mass of Thanksgiving
8:30 AM	Bolivar & Robert Almeida
12:00 PM	Eleanor Gorman (35th Anniversary)
Thursday	February 25th
7:00 AM	Michael Minischetti
8:30 AM	Dec'd Members—Szabados Family
12:00 PM	Michael Minischetti
Friday	February 26th
7:00 AM	Michael Minischetti
8:30 AM	Michael, Caroline, Michael Sassi, Jr. & Roland Pugliese
12:00 PM	
Saturday	February 27th
8:30 AM	Edna Martin (1st Anniversary)
5:00 PM	Elizabeth Walters
Sunday	February 28th
8:30 AM	Susan Sweeney (Birth Remem)
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Ethel Rohr
6:00 PM	John Hickey, Sr.

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, Zoraya Esplait, Justin McAdams, Dina Fabiitti, Rose Bruno, Andy Brunetti, Joan Garone

ARMED SERVICES

Edy Claudio & Robert Claudio,
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

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

Francis Morison,
Catherine Spatola

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Shaun Kevin McGready—St. Anthony's, Northport
Vanessa Giselle Matsis—OLM

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 21st**

-First Sunday of LENT.
-Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 10:00 AM Mass –
-RCIA "Rite of Sending" at the 12PM Mass.
-"Jesus of Nazareth" – Film and discussion – 3:00 PM in the Church.
-Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Vespers in the church at 4:30 PM.
-Two "second "collections today – 1.) For the Education Apostolate in Our Lady of Mercy Parish – 2.) For the Black & Indian Missions – via the Diocese.

MONDAY – FEBRUARY 22nd

-Feast of "The Chair of St. Peter" at the weekday Masses.
-RCIA – Convent meeting room at 7:30 PM.

TUESDAY – FEBRUARY 23rd

-Lenten weekday Masses.
-"Holy Spirit" prayer group - rectory at 9:00 AM.
-Altar Server training session church at 3:00 PM.
-"Awakening Faith" program – Session 1 – rectory meeting room at 7:30 PM.
-Cub Scouts – Parish Hall at 7:00 PM.

WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 24th

-Lenten weekday Masses.
-OLM Golden Age Club meeting – Parish Hall at noon.
-CCD religious instructions – assemble in the church at 2:15 PM.
-Talent Show rehearsal - Parish Hall - 6:00 to 9:00 PM.
-"Divine Mercy" prayer group – church at 7:30 PM.

THURSDAY – FEBRUARY 25th

-Lenten weekday Masses.
-Bereavement Meeting – 11:00 AM – Rectory
-CCD Confirmation class – 4:00 PM. - Rectory
-Bereavement Meeting – 7:30 PM – Rectory

FRIDAY – FEBRUARY 25th

-Lenten weekday Masses.
-Stations of the Cross following the 8:30 AM Mass.
-Daisy Scouts – Parish Hall at 2:30 PM.

SATURDAY – FEBRUARY 26th

-Lenten weekday Mass at 8:30 AM.
-Confessions – 4:00 to 4:45 PM.
-Annual CATHOLIC APPEAL.
-OLM Home-School sponsored *Talent Show* – Parish Hall at 7:00 PM.

Dear Parishioners:

The insert in today's bulletin contains the Parish Financial Report for the fiscal year September 2008 to August 2009. By way of comparison, the report for September 2007 to August 2008 is included. Please note that parish income was lower in the 2008-2009 fiscal year than in 2007-2008. There may be several reasons for this, not the least being the financial downturn that our country is undergoing. Nonetheless, expenditures in 2008-2009 were more than \$100,000 less than the previous year, which permitted us to reduce a deficit of \$122,921.63 to \$63,539.03. More needs to be done, although it is hard to see where future cuts can and should be made, without compromising the mission of the parish. I might add that neither of these Financial Reports reflects the results of The Parish Increased Support Initiative that hopefully will impact this year's report

The reduction in the deficit was primarily due to the fact that thankfully, unlike the previous year, we did not have any major structural repairs. We have also made personnel and office changes, which have kept increases in those areas to a minimum. In addition, the parish maintains reserves of about \$370,000 in reserves. This is never touched since it is all we have for the future. We also maintain two local accounts for fund raising and repairs. Between them they have a cumulative value of about \$70,000.

The Diocese of Brooklyn (& Queens) is beginning a Process of Strategic Planning for the future. Our Diocese has a large diverse population in a very small area (Kings and Queens Counties). People do not have to move far to find themselves outside of the Diocese. In fact, to journey through or over any of the East River crossings or over the Verrazano Bridge is to travel into the Archdiocese of New York. A trip to Nassau County means that you have traveled into the Diocese of Rockville Center. Obviously our Diocese is very subject to demographic and economic changes. Neighborhoods that were once heavily Catholic are no longer so. Some areas that were settled by Catholic ethnic groups have gentrified. Even though most parishes sponsor successful RCIA Programs (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults), will those new members of our faith community be numerous enough to sustain the rather large and aging infrastructure that has developed during the 150 years of our Diocesan history?

While we are fortunate in the fine young men in our college and post-college seminary system, their numbers indicate that we cannot expect more than four ordinations to the Diocesan priesthood annually. More and more we have had to rely on the services of international priests. Despite the dedication of these men, has their presence lulled us into a false sense that all our vocational needs are met? Ideally, the American Church should be served by American priests and religious! Vocations also impact our strategic Diocesan planning for the future. Can every parish be adequately staffed?

As this Process of Strategic Planning develops, I will try to keep you informed through these pages. Meanwhile my sincere thanks and appreciation go to all our generous and dedicated parishioners.

*In Christ,
Monsignor McGuirl*

RCIA-RITE OF SENDING TO ELECTION

On February 21st at the 12:00 Noon Mass we celebrate with our Candidates as they request our prayers and ask to join us at the Easter Vigil to be fully initiated in the Catholic faith. At Mass they will sign the scrolls, which will be taken to Bishop DiMarzio that afternoon at Christ the King High School. There, at a beautiful prayer service, they will be blessed and called by name (elected) as worthy to proceed. This prayer is called the Rite of Election and we ask you to remember these good people as they use these forty days of Lent to ready their hearts to be reborn in the life of Jesus at Eastertime.

We ask your prayers for Caroline Buschmann,
Rince Calder, Carol Edwards, Jenny Lin,
Jessica Ascarrunz, Liliana Ascarrunz and Kristin Bruno.

SNOW SHOVELING

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

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 are available at the doors of the church.

BEREAVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

If you have suffered the loss of a loved one and need support and understanding, please join one of our Bereavement Groups. We meet monthly and will be happy to journey with you during this difficult time.

Next Morning Meeting: Feb. 25th at 11:00 A.M.
in the Rectory Meeting Room.

Next Evening Meeting: Feb. 25th at 7:30 P.M. in
the Rectory Meeting Room. (Date changed due
to Tuesday evening Lenten programs).

Whatever your loss, we are here for you.

COMMUNITY NEWS

St. Margaret Church (66-05 79 Place, Middle Village) is sponsoring "The Journey, Cross and Crucifixion", a contemporary expression of the Stations of the Cross. The service is being offered by Creative Ministries, a troupe of Christian actors, musicians and dancers. All are invited to re-live and reflect upon the Passion of our Lord. The service will be on March 14, 2010 at 3:00 PM. We hope you will be able to join us for this live dramatic presentation of the Stations of the Cross. It is for people of all ages.

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 are available in the Mercy Mirror and at the church entrances. All are welcome! For more information, call Sue at the Rectory Office (718-268-6143).

OUR LADY OF MERCY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

FOR THE 2010 – 2011 SCHOOL YEAR

Our Lady of Mercy School has space available in some grades. Please call the school office (718-793-2086) for information and an appointment. The following items are needed for registration: birth certificate, baptismal certificate, immunization record, and recent report card (for students applying for grades 1-8). Diocesan Financial Aid is available for those who qualify (forms are available from the school office). We also offer Early Drop Off and After School Care.

Our Lady of Mercy School has excellent Pre-School Programs available for 3 & 4 year olds. Half day sessions (Monday through Friday from 8:15 AM to 11:00 AM) or full day sessions (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 8:15 AM to 2:30 PM and Wednesday from 8:15 AM to 1:00 PM) are available. Classes Kindergarten through Grade 8 meet Monday through Friday from 8:15 AM to 2:30 PM except for Wednesday dismissal at 1:00 PM.

LENTEN STUDY OPPORTUNITY

Set aside some time this Lenten season to join us as we study and reflect upon the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus as portrayed in the Franco Zeffirelli film *Jesus of Nazareth*. We will be viewing the film in six segments on the Sunday afternoons of Lent – February 21 & 28 and March 7, 14, 21 & 28 – at 3:00 PM in the church. Along with the showing of the film, there will be time for prayer, personal reflection and group discussion. There is no need to register for this study opportunity – just come. All are welcome!

Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Congratulations if you are celebrating your 25th, 30th, 40th or 50th (or above!) wedding anniversary. You are invited to celebrate your great day with Bishop DiMarzio at a special Mass scheduled for April 24th, 2010 at 11:00 A.M. at Our Lady of the Angels Church, 7320 Fourth Avenue, Brooklyn, NY, 11209. Per-registration is necessary by March 31st, 2010. Please call the rectory office to register. (718)268-6143. Congratulations to all those wonderful couples.

OLM DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

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

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

Giovanna Chechotka

by

Joanna Sullivan

Rev. Charles Whelan, S.J.

by

Anne Sweeney



BLOOD DRIVE
MARK YOUR
CALENDAR

Blood Drive 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).



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 February 23. 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, February 23, 2010 at 3:00 PM in the Church. All those wishing to train and become OLM ALTAR SERVERS are invited to attend this first session.

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!

TEEN CLUB NEWS



OLM TEEN CLUB IS 2 YEARS OLD!!!

The Teen Club is having its 2nd Year Anniversary Party and is inviting All Teen Alumni of OLM Class 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 and Friends to come and celebrate!

FOOD, DANCING AND MUSIC

by
 DJ MrJCool and his Gang (OLM 2007 Grads)

Feb. 28th after the 6pm Teen Mass.
 For information email olmteenconnect@gmail.com

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

FAMILY, MARRIAGE AND
INDIVIDUAL THERAPY

Professional therapy, provided by New York State licensed therapists, is available to our parish and 92 other parishes. This program, under the direction of Dr. George Giuliani, has been conducted in the Diocese for the past 35 years for the convenience of parishioners. Services are provided by the Catholic Counseling Center, a proprietary professional corporation, which is independent of and not controlled or supervised by the parish or Diocese. Most insurance policies, including Medicare, are honored. Confidential information and appointments are available by calling Dr. Giuliani at 631-243-2503 or go to our website at <http://thecatholiccounselingcenter.com>.