

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	March 13th
5:00 PM	Bill Walters
Sunday	March 14th
8:30 AM	Giovanna Chechotka
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Mario Milevoi
6:00 PM	Bill Lynam
Monday	March 15th
7:00 AM	Andrew Cariello
8:30 AM	Angelina Pinzone
12:00 PM	Caterina Fossari
Tuesday	March 16th
7:00 AM	Ralph J. Maresca, Sr. (1st Anniversary)
8:30 AM	Ellen and Timothy Madden
12:00 PM	Mother Marie Ange, OCD
Wednesday	March 17th
7:00 AM	Nellie & Maurine Rooney
8:30 AM	John & Anne Daly and Bill Walters
12:00 PM	Margaret Greeley
Thursday	March 18th
7:00 AM	Michael Minischetti
8:30 AM	William Kirby and Leonard V. Quigley
12:00 PM	Gerard Vinaccio (Birthday Remem)
Friday	March 19th
7:00 AM	George Napolitano
8:30 AM	Francis Sweeney
12:00 PM	Isabella Allegro
Saturday	March 20th
8:30 AM	William Surowiec
5:00 PM	Frank Guidice
Sunday	March 21st
8:30 AM	Adelina Agostinelli (1st Anniversary)
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Maria Pinzon
6:00 PM	Isabella Allegro

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, Jean Buff Norton, Mary Panny, Mary Aloisi, Dr. Anthony Bennardo, Maria Vega, Anna Krawczyk, Remington Stafford, Maureen Albert, Philip Califano, Grace Zerbo, Charles Sullivan, Concetta & Vittorio Alesi, Mary O'Driscoll, Zoraya Esplait, Dina Fabiitti, Rose Bruno, Andy Brunetti, Joan Garone, Michael Gaynor, III, Maureen Crawley

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

Rev. Charles Francis Harth
Martin W. Flynn

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – MARCH 14TH**

-Fourth Sunday of LENT.
-RCIA second "Scrutiny" at the 10:00 AM Mass.
-"Jesus of Nazareth" – film and discussion – church at 3:00 PM.
-St. Vincent de Paul clothing truck in front of the church – 8:00 AM to noon.

MONDAY – MARCH 15TH

-Lenten weekday Masses.
-Annual Lenten "SOUP SUPPER" – LCH at 6:30 PM.
-(No RCIA this evening)

TUESDAY – MARCH 16TH

-Lenten weekday Masses.
-"Holy Spirit" prayer group – rectory at 9:00 AM
-Altar Server training session – church at 3:00 PM.
-Lenten DVD "Lenten Retreat Program" – School library (convent) – 7:30 PM.
-"Awakening Faith" program – session 4 – rectory meeting room at 7:30 PM.
-Cub Scouts – Parish Hall at 7:00 PM.

WEDNESDAY – MARCH 17TH

-Lenten weekday Masses –(with a commemoration of St. Patrick).
-OLM Golden Age Club meeting – Parish Hall at noon.
-CCD religious instructions –in church at 2:15 PM.
-"Divine Mercy" prayer group – church at 7:30 PM.

THURSDAY – MARCH 18TH

-Lenten weekday Masses.
-CCD Confirmation class – rectory at 4:00 PM.
-Baptism meeting with parents of this Saturday's baptisms– Rectory Meeting Room at 7:30 PM.

FRIDAY – MARCH 19TH

-Solemn Feast of ST. JOSEPH, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
-Stations of the Cross following g the 8:30 AM Mass.
-Stations of the Cross for OLM school students – church at 1:45 PM.
-"Movie Night" – Parish Hall at 5:00 PM.

SATURDAY – MARCH 20TH

-Lenten weekday Mass at 8:30 AM.
-Baptisms at 1:00 PM
-Confessions at 4:00 to 4:45 PM.
-"Family Supermarket Sweeps" – Parish Hall at 7:00 PM.

RCIA – SECOND SCRUTINY

This weeks' prayers for our Elect, Rince Calder, Carol Edwards and Jenny Lin will take place at the 10:00A.M. Mass. We will pray that they will be free of any sin and receive God's grace as the Blind Man received his faith in Jesus. May all of us make room for God's goodness by turning from sin and seeking God's forgiving grace.

Dear Parishioners:

The Diocese of Brooklyn has launched a Diocesan Strategic Planning process. This initiative is to plan for the future of our Church in Kings and Queens Counties. The Brooklyn Diocese is territorially the smallest diocese in the country and yet, excluding the archdioceses, we have the largest population. In two relatively small counties, over a million people identify as Catholic, though in fact about a quarter of a million regularly attend Sunday Mass.

From 1853 to 1957 our Diocese included all of Long Island. In 1957, because of the huge post-war housing boom, the Diocese was divided. Nassau and Suffolk Counties formed the new Diocese of Rockville Center. The Brooklyn Diocese was then relegated to the two urban counties of Kings and Queens. For clarification's sake, the rest of the of The City of New York (New York County [Manhattan], Bronx County and Richmond County [Staten Island]) are parts of the Archdiocese of New York, which also includes several upstate counties. The Archdiocese of New York is under the jurisdiction of Archbishop Timothy Dolan. Our Bishop is Nicholas DiMarzio

The Diocese of Brooklyn contains the two New York City counties with the largest residential populations. Our history originated when Brooklyn was an independent city and the largest city on Long Island. That remained true until the creation of Metropolitan New York City in 1898. New York City remains a major port of entry for people seeking the promise of these United States. Most of us are within a generation or two of earlier groups of immigrants! Our Diocese is the home of many cultural, linguistic and national groups.

Significantly many newer immigrants are not Catholic and some of the newer Catholics are extremely poor. Yet the same neighborhood, it is not unusual to find four or five Catholic Churches, each constructed to serve the needs of a particular ethnic group. In many instances some of those groups have moved (and they need not have moved too far to be outside our Diocese!). Almost all of our parishes are faced with the care and preservation of aging buildings.

And as I have repeatedly stressed, more worthy and good (and younger) vocations are absolutely necessary!!!!

In the face of these new realities, some might be tempted to ask: why doesn't the Bishop help faltering parishes. To the tune of millions of dollars, he has done just that. Over the last several years, the Diocese lost millions of dollars in such aid. The Bishop has no resources except those that originate from the assessments paid by each parish in the Diocese. If possible some of that money may be invested but it originates in the local Church not the other way around. Nor have the recent fluctuations in the stock market dealt kindly with Diocesan (or parish) investments.

Some might suggest: sell property. Indeed our Diocese is land rich but on that land rests the institutions of the Diocese. For example, the land under Our Lady of Mercy Church, rectory, School and convent might fetch millions of dollars but if sold then we have no parish. Our Bishops past and present wisely have been reluctant to sell parochial or Diocesan property, except when absolutely necessary. Once the property is gone, it is almost impossible to retrieve.

Surprisingly from some otherwise sophisticated people there comes the ridiculous suggestion that the Vatican help us. The Church is not a franchise operation, with every diocese being nothing more than a branch of central headquarters. Vatican City State, though only a small section in the City of Rome, is an independent country, which provides for the personal integrity and freedom of the Holy Father. Every parish and Diocese is separately incorporated according to the civil law in the various countries where the Catholic Church exists. Our connection to the Holy See (the Vatican) is a moral connection of fidelity and loyalty to the successor of Saint Peter, the Apostle. The Vatican depends on Catholics throughout the world for its support (Peter's Pence) and by the investment of some of those funds. Museum tickets, souvenirs, stamps, coins and internal Church paperwork might also provide much smaller sources of Vatican funding.

The art accumulated over a two thousand year history is the patrimony of the entire Church, and it is to a great degree the record of western civilization. Most of it was created to glorify God. Some might suggest that it be sold. To whom? Who wants the responsibility of safeguarding it? At least presently these art works are available to be seen and enjoyed by all people at little or no cost. The Church has thousands of parishes, schools, hospitals, shelters, orphanages and other institutions scattered throughout the world, many of them in desperately poor counties. Even in a theoretical art sale, how is division of funds to be made? What would each institute receive - a few cents? As it is, with the funds donated to him, the Holy Father does assist poorer churches and people in disaster areas.

Our Churches, schools, and other institutions exist in order to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ and to affirm and strengthen the Faith of His modern disciples. We have no other reason to exist. In each age, the Church leadership must determine the best and most efficient way to utilize our personnel and resources as we respond to the Gospel mandate: "Go therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments that I gave you. And know that I am with you always, yes, even to the consummation of the world." (Matthew 28: 19-20) But until that final consummation, it is the Church's mission to preach and celebrate the life, death and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and to proclaim the message of reconciliation with God the Father that was at the core of Jesus' message. We have no other primary purpose!

The Bishop has entitled the Diocesan Strategic Planning Process: *Christ Jesus, Our Hope*. Rightly so, since the hope we have in Jesus underlies everything. The Diocese has launched a new website to keep all parishioners up to date on the planning process. The website is: www.ChristJesusOur Hope.org. The site contains information relevant to the current process, including a text of the Bishop's recent Pastoral Letter. It provides answers to some frequently asked questions that parishioners may have about the process and it provide a forum for us to submit questions and thoughts. As the process continues all of us are encouraged to check this site for current information regarding the planning process and the changes occurring in our Diocesan Church.

Monsignor John A. McGuire

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 Evening Meeting: March 24th at 7:30 P.M. in the Rectory Meeting Room. (Date changed due to Tuesday evening Lenten Programs.

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

Whatever your loss, we are here for you.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Requests for help with food continue and our supplies are low. Our needs are: soups, rice, pasta, cereal, canned meats or fish, canned fruits and vegetables, coffee, tea and hot chocolate. Please drop off one or more items in the boxes in the rear of the Church.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Each year we provide an opportunity for adults who, for whatever reason, were never Confirmed. Any adult who is interested in being prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation is urged to contact Sr. Ann Barbara at 718-261-6285. Classes will be held in the Convent and conclude with the reception of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2010. If you or someone you know can benefit from this opportunity, please contact Sister as soon as possible.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL CLOTHING DRIVE

The St. Vincent de Paul clothing truck will be in front of the Church today, Sunday, March 14th.

Clean clothing in good condition may be brought from 8:30 A.M. to Noon. Take time to clean closets of unused or outgrown clothing and share it with the needy. Perhaps your children can help in this worthwhile service activity. Your generosity is always appreciated.

LENTE 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 16th, and 23rd at 7:30 PM in the Convent Meeting Room. Registration forms are available at the doors of the church.

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

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

DOMINICAN VILLAGE OPEN HOUSE

Dominican Village, a not-for-profit, non-sectarian, Independent and Assisted Living Residence Rental Retirement Community, sponsored by the Sisters of St. Dominic, is holding an Open House from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM on March 13, 18 & 27 and April 8, 17, 22 & 29. For more information, contact Emily in the Community Relations Office at 631-842-6618.

CHRISTOPHER LEADERSHIP COURSE

An 8-week Leadership Course for Adults is being offered by The Christophers on Wednesday nights from April 21 through June 9 in the Wall Street area. Climb out of the winter doldrums! Build confidence, improve speaking skill and strengthen your interpersonal abilities. Friendly learning environment. Early bird registration by April 8, cost is \$100; after April 8, cost is \$125 per person. Cost includes manual and materials. For more information or to register, call toll-free (888) 298-4050, Ext. 249, log on to the website www.christophers.org/leadership or e-mail leadership@christophers.org.

LENTE 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 are viewing the film on the remaining Sundays of Lent – March 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!

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
Dennis and Mary Griffin

EASTER FLOWERS

As we did at Christmas, we are providing an opportunity for 15 families to memorialize a loved one by making a donation of \$150.00 for Easter flowers. Names of all those memorialized will be published in our Bulletin, and flowers will remain on the altar and in Church for at least weeks.

Each donation will provide four flowering plants – lilies, azaleas, hydrangeas and tulips. Help make this Easter magnificent! Arrangements can be made by contacting the Rectory at 728-268-6143.



SOUP SUPPER

Our Lenten “Soup Supper” will be held Monday, March 15th at 6:30 P.M. in the Church Hall. Together we share a simple meal, express our care for our needier brothers and sisters and listen to the Lord’s desire:

“Whatsoever you do to the least amongst us,
that you do unto me”.

Sr. Eileen Coleman, IHM, will be the presenter. Proceeds from the Soup Supper will benefit the Haitian Earthquake recovery. Through our simple sharing of prayer, fasting and almsgiving we can make Soup Supper 2010 a living witness to our care for a larger world. When we increase love, we increase peace. All are welcome to join us. Please return the response form to the Rectory by Noon on March 15th

Book Club for Lent

Our next book club selection for Lent is *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. Explore the meaning of temptation as letters are exchanged between two demonic forces, Screwtape and his nephew, Wormwood. Through sharp insight and humor, Lewis helps us understand the dynamics of temptation, and how to recognize and dispel the tempter. We will meet on April 15th at 7:30 P.M. in the School Library

Please join us in reading this spiritual classic!

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 today 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.

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. 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.

March 19- Movie Night

Join us in the Church Hall on March 19th- Friday, at 6:30pm for our premiere showing of “The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe” from the Chronicles of Narnia series by C.S. Lewis. Join these four children who accidentally unlock a closet door that leads to a new and wonderful world. They discover this world is ruled by the cruel White Witch and that they have a special role in setting everyone free! Adults as well as children will find this a special and delightful film.

Cost: \$10- includes drink, popcorn and candy.

AWAKEN YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH

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

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 from the remaining Tuesdays of Lent – Mar 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.

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