

MASS INTENTIONS**BANNS OF MARRIAGE**

Saturday March 20th
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

Monday March 22nd
7:00 AM Ellen Kaestel
8:30 AM Fred Parham (Birthday Wishes)
12:00 PM William Surowiec

Tuesday March 23rd
7:00 AM Frank Morison
8:30 AM Frank Bailey
12:00 PM Eleanor Shavel and
George & Elizabeth Schaber

Wednesday March 24th
7:00 AM Mass of Thanksgiving
8:30 AM Bolivar & Robert Almeida
12:00 PM Juliana Cruz

Thursday March 25th
7:00 AM William Lynam
8:30 AM Louis & Pauline Pfohl
12:00 PM Rebecca Maria Vega (Birth Remem)

Friday March 26th
7:00 AM Michael Minischetti
8:30 AM Alma Aspiras (Birth Remem)
12:00 PM Michael, Caroline & Michael Sassi, Jr.
and Roland Pugliese

Saturday March 27th
8:30 AM Kathyne Clune
5:00 PM John & Anne Daly

Sunday March 28th
8:30 AM Ethel Rohr
10:00 AM Parish Mass
12:00 PM Peter Perrucci
6:00 PM Nicola Rosario Cavallo

Shaun K. McCready
Vanessa Matsis—OLM

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

-Fifth Sunday of LENT.
-Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 10:00 AM Mass
-"Jesus of Nazareth" – Film & discussion – church at 3:00 PM. All are welcome.
-RCIA Third Scrutiny at the 6:00 PM Mass.
-Second collection for Parish – Donations for Easter flowers and décor.

MONDAY – MARCH 22nd

-Lenten weekday Masses.
-RCIA session – Convent meeting room at 7:30 PM.

TUESDAY – MARCH 23rd

-Lenten weekday Masses.
-"Holy Spirit" prayer group – rectory at 9:00 AM.
-"Awakening Faith" program – session 5 – rectory meeting room at 7:30 PM.
-Lenten Retreat program – DVD & discussion - convent meeting room at 7:30 PM.

-Cub Scouts – Parish Hall at 7:00 PM.

WEDNESDAY – MARCH 24th

-Lenten weekday Masses.
-OLM Golden Age Club meeting – Parish Hall at noon.
-CCD religious instructions – assemble in the church at 2:15 PM.
-Bereavement session – rectory meeting room at 7:30 PM.
-"Divine Mercy" prayer group – church at 7:30 PM.

THURSDAY – MARCH 25th

-Solemn Feast of the Annunciation (to Mary) of the Lord.
-Bereavement session – rectory at 11:00 AM.
-CCD Confirmation class – rectory at 4:00 PM.
-Basketball Program Awards ceremonies – Parish Hall- 3:00 to 9:00 PM.

FRIDAY – MARCH 26th

-Lenten weekday Masses
-Stations of the Cross following the 8:30 AM Mass.
-Stations of the Cross – OLM School –church at 1:30 PM.
-Daisy Scouts – Parish Hall at 2:30 PM.

SATURDAY – MARCH 27th

-Lenten weekday Mass at 8:30 AM.
-First Communion children's "Retreat" – School meeting room – 2:30 PM.
-Confessions – 4:00 to 4:45 PM.
-Filipino Mass & Reception – Church at 6:30 PM

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, Marco Caban, Yoshie Powell

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

Albert Romano, Guiseppa Alcamo

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, Capt. Peter Sulewski, U.S. Army

Dear Parishioners;

The year seems to be passing very quickly. Next Sunday is Palm Sunday. In order that we might concentrate on the most profound mysteries of our Faith in the next two weeks, today I wish to make you aware of certain developments in our Diocese. One is the Annual Catholic Appeal. This Sunday is In-Pew Sunday and the details are elsewhere in this bulletin. Secondly our Diocese has begun a process of Strategic Planning entitled *Christ Jesus Our Hope*. The Church exists primarily to proclaim that hope to those who yearn for purpose and meaning in their lives. It exists to support and build the people of God here on earth until the final reckoning which yet lies beyond our horizon. The Sacraments are the Risen Lord's unique entry into our daily lives. Every other facet of the Church's life is meant to build and develop a loving community of those who firmly believe that their lives find true and ultimate purpose and meaning in the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. So indeed *Christ Jesus is Our Hope*.

Throughout its long history, the Church has had the same mission - to make Jesus known and to proclaim Jesus' message of reconciliation with God our Father. Every age brings its own unique problems and circumstances. The bishop, as the chief priest of his Diocese, is the successor of the Apostles. Like the Apostles the bishops must examine the "signs of the times" and gear the Church to encounter each age and culture. Some efforts have been more successful than others but open to the guidance of the Spirit, each bishop must make this effort.

Our Diocese is unique in its small territory and its huge population. In our Diocesan territory of Brooklyn and Queens, a million and half of our fellow citizens identify as "Catholic" though in fact a far fewer number gather at the Sunday Eucharist or take part in the life of their parishes. Why is that?

Our people come from many different lands, cultures and linguistic traditions. Are we meeting their needs? If no, why not?

The Church requires worthy, healthy and devout men and women on fire with a love of God and the things of God. We do not have a sufficient number of clergy to staff our parishes. Why not? The numbers of our religious Brothers and Sisters is vastly reduced. Why?

The answers to these and other questions will help our Shepherd, Bishop Di Marzio, set a direction for the future life of our Diocese. Every aspect of parish life will be examined: spiritual, organizational and financial. Some statistics have already been collated and for your information they are published with this bulletin in a separate flyer. In April, these statistics will be analyzed in order to set a direction for Our Lady of Mercy Parish. Please read and save this enclosed flyer and let us continue to pray for one another in this challenging time.

Monsignor McGuirl

RCIA – 3RD SCRUTINY

This week's prayers for our Elect, Rince Calder, Carol Edwards and Jenny Lin will take place at the 6:00 P.M. Mass. We will pray that they will be free of any sin and receive God's grace as Lazarus received his new life in Jesus. May all of us make room for God's goodness by turning from sin and seeking God's forgiving grace.

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

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

God promises us a new heart and a new spirit if we turn to Him and confess our need for His Love and Mercy. Join us Monday evening, March 29th at 7:30 P.M. in Church. As a community let us lay down our sins and receive the Life of Grace in preparation for the great Easter before us. There will be an opportunity for individual confession.

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! 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.

Thank You

Thank you to all who arranged and participated in our Parish Soup Supper. We greatly appreciate your generosity to the Haitian Outreach Fund. \$2,000.00 was collected for this wonderful charity.

EASTER FOOD

To help us prepare the 25 food baskets we will provide to needy families during the Easter season, please consider donating one or more of the following items: canned ham, instant mashed potatoes, canned gravy, canned fruits and vegetables, fruit drinks, nuts or candy, cookies, tea or instant coffee, or soda. Donations of these items can be made by placing them in the Family Table food bins in the Church vestibule. If you would like to make a cash donation, it may be brought to the Rectory. Please bring your donations by MARCH 18th. Thank you for your continued generosity.

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 27 and April 8, 17, 22 & 29. For more information, contact Emily in the Community Relations Office at 631-842-6618

2010 CENSUS

The 2010 Census is coming your way! When you get your questionnaire in the mail, fill it out and mail it back in the postage-paid envelope right away! It's easy, it's safe and it's important!

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.

AWAKEN YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Awakening Faith is a six-session series discussing 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 for the remaining Tuesdays of Lent at 7:30 PM in the Rectory Meeting Room. All are welcome! For more information, call Sue at the Rectory Office (718-268-6143).

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!

FAMILY, MARRIAGE AND INDIVIDUAL THERAPY

Confidential information and appointments are available by calling Dr. Giuliani at 631-243-2503 or go to our website at <http://thecatholiccounselingcenter.com>.

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 are viewing the film on the remaining Sundays of Lent – March 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.

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.

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.

OLM DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

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

BREAD AND WINE

Many thanks for this week's donation for the Bread & Wine given lovingly in memory of:

Zahide Prono
by
Prono Family

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

Rebecca Alessandra Marks
by
LoRusso, DeCarvalho & Vitale Families

Joseph Abromaitis
by
Zalner Family

Ellen Kaestel
by
OLM Third Grade Class

Summary Report Of the Annual Catholic Appeal - 2009

Once again our parishioners demonstrated their loving concern for their brothers and sisters throughout our Diocese. In the 2009 Appeal, 225 family units out of the approximately 1,186 registered families contributed to the Appeal. That is 18.07% of our total registered families. The best ever -almost 20%! The goal set by the Diocese was \$71,021 but our parishioners pledged \$104,600 which is 147.28% of the Goal. As of January 1st, 2010, \$103,635.00 had been received, which represents 145.92% of the Goal and 99.08% of the amount pledged. This is excellent and a wonderful illustration of our concern for our Diocesan Church of which we are a dynamic and faith-filled part.

The 2010 - Annual Catholic Appeal

Our goal is exactly the same as last year - \$71,021. As of March 9th, already 68 parish families have pledged \$17,195.00 which is already almost 25% of the goal. We are off to a wonderful beginning! Our contributions to this Diocesan Appeal are designated funds and can only be used for the purposes indicated.

\$1,200,00 - Catholic Charities

Adaptive Services, Center For Pregnant Women, Child Care Services, Parish and Community Services, Prison Ministries and Services for the Elderly.

\$1,600,000 - Vocations Support

Seminarian scholarships, Cathedral Seminary Residence (Douglaston), the Vocation Office, Cathedral Preparatory Seminary High School (Elmhurst), John Paul II House of Discernment (Highland Park - Cypress Hills), Theological Studies.

As a former Diocesan Vocation Director (1978-1983) I recognize how essential it is not simply to have vocations, but sincere, dedicated, holy and stable vocations. The unfortunate news with which we are constantly bombarded should make this perfectly clear. If nothing else in the Appeal, this area should be of the greatest concern to anyone who has love for our Church.

\$600,000 - Catholic Migration Services

Including many services in assisting newcomers acclimate themselves to our nation and our City. Many of those newcomers are our brothers and sisters in Christ and share our Catholic Faith.

\$2,500,000 - Catholic Education

Nearly 49,000 boys and girls are enrolled in the Catholic Schools of Brooklyn and Queens. This \$1,600,000 fund helps to support various Scholarship programs as well as the Office of Catholic Schools Support Services.

\$1,600,000 - Faith Formation and Pastoral Life

Including training for deacons, catechist training, lay leadership formation, Marriage Preparation (Pre-Cana), Office of the Sick, Pastoral Planning, Respect Life Ministry, Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) and others.

\$500,000 Chaplaincies

In some of the high schools and hospitals

Parish Share

Because of your generosity, this Appeal has become the major fundraiser of our parish. Last year, \$23,639.00 was returned to the parish and it was very welcome.

In Pew Sunday

This is In-Pew Sunday. Many parishioners have been contracted by mail about the Annual Catholic Appeal. If you did not receive a mailing, there is an envelope included in this bulletin. All I ask is that you do your best. Everyone has different financial circumstances. What is generous for one may not be so for another. Among other things mentioned in this copy of the bulletin, our support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal is an indication of the health of our parish. Our past record indicates very good health! Please know that your parish priests are also very generous contributors to this Appeal. We are loath to ask our faithful people to do what we are not doing.

St. Matthew's Gospel gives us a vivid picture image of the final Judgment. Those worthy of the Kingdom are those who

"When I was hungry, you gave me to eat
When I was thirsty, you gave me to drink
When I was a stranger, you took me in;
sick and you visited me.

In prison, and you came to see me.

Amen, I say to you, as long as you did this for the least of My brethren,
you did it for Me" Matthew 25:35-36, 40

God bless you,
Monsignor John A. McGuirl

Community News:

A Job Fair, sponsored by New York State Senator Joseph Addabbo, Jr., will be held on Friday, April 9, 2010 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Aqueduct Racetrack, 110-00 Rockaway Blvd, South Ozone Park. Over 100 potential employers are expected, so bring plenty of resumes. Business attire suggested. For more information, contact Peter in Sen. Addabbo's District Office at 718-738-1111.

A Trip to the Cape Cod Irish Village, led by Father Vincent Daly from Our Lady of Perpetual Help in South Ozone Park, will take place from May 10 to 14, 2010. Call Father Daly or Martha at 718-843-1212 for more information.