

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	March 27th
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
Monday	March 29th
7:00 AM	Frank Morison
8:30 AM	Keck & Wischerta Families
12:00 PM	William Surowiec
Tuesday	March 30th
7:00 AM	Claire Scott
8:30 AM	Daniel Dorney
12:00 PM	Louis A. Sauro
Wednesday	March 31st
7:00 AM	Thomas J. Foudy (Birthday Remem)
8:30 AM	Martin Flynn
12:00 PM	Luigi Sauro & Mary Russomanno
Thursday	April 1st
8:30 AM	Simple Mass
7:30 PM	Mass of the Lord's Supper
10:00 PM	Night Prayer
Friday	April 2nd
9:00 AM	Morning Prayer
1:00 AM	stations of the Cross
3:00 PM	Celebration of the Lord's Passion
7:30 PM	Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Saturday	April 3rd
10:00 AM	Morning Prayer & Blessing of Food
8:00 PM	Solemn Easter Vigil
Sunday	April 4th
8:30 AM	No
10:00 AM	Mass
12:00 PM	Intentions
6:00 PM	No Mass

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, Janis Wallenstein, Sarah Donahue

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

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our faith community all those who were baptized in the month of March 2010

Mary Grace Connolly
Sophia Paige Lewis
Ava Nicole Lisica
Bryan Malici
Nora Giakouminakis

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – MARCH 28th**

-Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
- Blessing of the palm branches at the beginning of each Mass - have branches in hand as Mass begins.
- "Jesus of Nazareth" – Film & Discussion – 3:00 PM. In Church.
- Vespers Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction - 4:30PM in Church
- Teen Club Mass at 6:00 PM.
- Teen Club meeting & social in Parish Hall following the 6:00 PM Mass.
- The second collection today - "*SPECIAL EASTER OFFERING TO THE PARISH*" - Thank You for your generosity in this important PARISH collection.

MONDAY – MARCH 29th

-Masses - Monday of Holy Week.
- "*Reconciliation Monday*" (confessions being heard most of the day & evening in ALL the parishes of the Brooklyn and Rockville Centre Dioceses). Here in Mercy Reconciliation will be available from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM - from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM - in the evening, Penance Service at 7:30 PM followed by confessions for as long as necessary (a visiting priest, Monsignor Robert Thelan, will be available for the evening confession time).
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM in Church.
-RCIA session in the convent meeting room following the Penance Service.

TUESDAY – MARCH 30th

-Masses - Tuesday of Holy Week.
- "Holy Spirit" prayer group – rectory meeting following the 8:30 AM Mass.
- OLM School "Garden Club" meeting at 2:30 PM in the school courtyard.
- "Awakening Faith" Program – session 6 – rectory meeting room at 7:30 PM.
- Cub Scouts – Parish Hall at 7:00 PM.

WEDNESDAY – MARCH 31st

-Masses - Wednesday of Holy Week.
- OLM School Easter recess begins at today's dismissal time.
- OLM Golden Age Club meeting – Parish Hall at noon.
- No CCD religious instructions today.
- Bereavement session – rectory room at 7:30 PM.
- "Divine Mercy" prayer group – church at 7:30 PM.

SACRED TRIDUUM**HOLY THURSDAY – APRIL 1st**

-Mass at 8:30 AM for those unable to attend the solemn evening Mass.
- No CCD Confirmation class today.
- *SOLEMN MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER* - at 7:30 PM.
Blessed Sacrament Repository adoration until "Night Prayer" at 10:00 PM.

GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 2nd

-Morning Prayer at 9:00 AM.
- Stations of the Cross at 1:00 PM.
- Solemn Good Friday communion liturgy at 3:00 PM
- Solemn Good Friday communion liturgy again at 7:30 PM.
- Collection at the communion liturgies for the care of the Sacred Holy Land Shrines.

HOLY SATURDAY – APRIL 3rd

- Morning Prayer & Easter blessing of Foods at 10 AM.
- Solemn EASTER VIGIL & MASS - beginning at 800 PM - following the Mass - Hospitality Hour in the Parish Hall - all welcome.

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 4th

- Easter Masses at 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM - and at 12:00 NOON.
NO EVENING MASS ON EASTER SUNDAY.

Dear Parishioners;

Which is it? - "Hosanna in the highest" or "Crucify Him!" Palm Sunday seems to mix both themes. We begin the Mass Procession with the blessing of palms as we imitate the joyous reception that Jesus received when He entered Jerusalem. Many people were longing for a Messiah but they wanted one to their liking. Maybe this would be the great king, who would drive out the occupying Roman troops and their Herodian puppets? Maybe this was the Messiah who would unite the people again in a mighty kingdom like David and Solomon of old?

Such was not God's plan. The true Messiah would be a suffering servant, Who in His humanity would demonstrate God's self-sacrificing love for us. The Gospel today is the Passion of Christ. That Passion will be proclaimed again on Friday.

The Passion has such a hold on our imagination, because in various degrees we have all experienced elements of it. In the course of our lives which of us has not experienced rejection, disappointment, loss of friends, misunderstanding, physical suffering and finally death. We are familiar with these things and so was Christ. The passion holds our attention - it rings true.

Next Sunday heralds that the darkness of Christ's passion does not have the last word. The new life of Easter is the final chapter both for Jesus and for His followers.

Enclosed with this bulletin is a schedule of all the Holy Week Services at Our Lady of Mercy Church. It is for your convenience so please bring in home and refer to it throughout this sacred week in which we celebrate the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus.

Monsignor McGuirl

Church Facilities

Rest Rooms. Several times recently our custodians have had the repulsive job of cleaning the messes left by people who used the rest rooms in the Church vestibule and Hall. Those rooms are for the convenience of all our parishioners and visitors. Their misuse denies others this convenience and makes more and unpleasant work for our custodians. We ask that care be taken about what is disposed of in the facilities so that these rooms remain available to our entire parish.

Lawns. Every afternoon the lawns in front of the Church, rectory, and school become a playground for some of our younger children. It is understandable that after hours cooped up in a classroom, children have unbounded energy to burn; nonetheless, that must be balanced against the maintenance of our infrastructure. It costs the parish a considerable amount to maintain and repair the lawns. To let our property run down would be a sure signal to our neighbors and friends that our neighborhood was in a downhill spiral. I feel that our parish and the other Christian and Jewish congregations in the area have an obligation to set an example in order to encourage our neighbors to do the same. Many parents are present when the children are released and many of them stand by and watch while the lawns are trampled. Before someone is injured or falls out of the tree behind the rectory, I would ask the parents to exercise more oversight in the after-school conduct of their children.

Snow. Hopefully we are done with the snow for this year. Nonetheless there were several incidences relating to snow during the winter. Children leaving school were instructed by the school administrators not to throw snow. Why? Because our custodians spend hours cleaning the snow and providing access to our Church and School. They were so diligent that one of our custodians, Tom Lambert, stayed overnight at the rectory on four or five occasions to begin clean-ups at four or five in the morning. Like every homeowners we also have the obligation to clear sidewalks after a snow fall. Our custodians are not over-paid and they work very hard. It is unfair to have their work undone by children, most of whom can play in their own yards or on their front lawns when they reach home.

The Elevator. The elevator is there primarily to provide assistance to our older or handicapped parishioners. Last Sunday it ceased working and an emergency call was made to the Otis Company. On Monday morning it was discovered that a candy box had become lodged in the guide-way for the elevator door. The doors have safety features. They are arranged so that any obstacle will signal the electric eye and the door can not be closed if there is someone or something in the way. Last week the failure of the elevator was a severe inconvenience to several of our longest and most loyal parishioners who were in effect denied easy access to and from the Church. We ask elevator users to be mindful of anything lodged in the door guide-ways as this will impede the mechanism.

*Thank you,
Monsignor McGuirl*

In Appreciation

Thank you to Ms. Rose Roseman and Ms. Lynn Durante, both of whom wrote to mention that they would increase their annual contributions as part of the Parish Increased Support Appeal

Many thanks

Our St. Patrick's Day Dance on March 13th was a resounding success because of the hard work of the committee of Sinead and Gerry Whelan and Breda Buckley and those who assisted them. Every one had a grand time. We all look forward to next year!!! "Go raibh maith agut!"

Soup Supper

Sister Eileen Coleman, I.H.M. thanks all the participants at the March 15th Soup Supper. Sister spoke on behalf of Sisters who serve in Haiti. Her presentation dramatically showed the effect of the recent devastating earthquake. Over \$2,000 was raised at the Soup Supper to assist our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

TRI-M CYO Girls Swim Team

"A Division"

01/22/10	Vs. Olan	Win 91/44
	(Our Lady of Blessed Sacrament and St. Andrews)	
01/29/10	Vs. Blessed Trinity	Win 96/39
02/05/10	Vs. St. Francis DeSales	Win 90/45
03/05/10	Vs. St. Sebastian	Win 80/55
03/12/10	Vs. Olan	Win 85/50
	(Our Lady of Blessed Sacrament and St. Andrews)	
03/19/10	Vs. Good Shepherd	win 85/63
"A Division" Dual Meet	Championship	
03/26/10	Vs. St. Sebastian - Richmond Hill High School	
	7:00 PM	
	TO BE ANNOUNCED	

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.

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!

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 the last segment of the film on Palm Sunday - March 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!

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 three 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.

OLM DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

03-31-10	7:30 p.m.	DM Devotion Praise and Worship Fellowship - Parish Hall
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ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Please join us on Easter Sunday, April 4, after the 10:00 AM Mass for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Children ages 4 and under should line up along Juno Street on both sides of the Lower Church Hall steps; older children should line up along the Juno Street and 70th Avenue corner. Please bring 2 surprise filled eggs for each child and some extras for our visiting friends and families.

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY- "THREE THINGS TALKS"

"Three Things Talks," sponsored by St. John's University, is a series which addresses issues of Catholic belief and teaching. The talks are primarily intended for adult Catholics who want to know more about their faith, and also for those who are interested in what Catholics believe. That next "Three Things Talks" will focus on "The Development of Eucharistic Liturgy." The talks, given by St. John's University Theology Department faculty, will be held at St. Thomas More Church on the Queens Campus of St. John's University on Saturday, April 17, 2010 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The first talk, "Liturgy after the Last Supper," will begin at 10:00 AM, the second talk, "The Mass: Trent to Vatican II," will begin at 11:00 AM and the third talk, "Celebrating Eucharist after Vatican II," will begin at Noon. Following each presentation, there will be a brief period of questions and discussion and a short break for refreshments. You are welcome to attend any or all of the talks. There is no charge. For more information, go to www.stjohns.edu/threethings.

St. John's University is also sponsoring a "Year for Priests" Evening Reflection on "Meals in Luke: Lessons on Eucharist." The Evening Reflection will be given by Fr. Patrick J. Griffin, CM on Wednesday, April 28, 2010 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM at St. Thomas More Church on the Queens Campus of St. John's University. There is no charge. All are welcome.

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.

St. Francis of Assisi School, located at 21 Avenue and 46 Street in Astoria, will be hosting its annual Spring Outdoor Flea Market on Saturday, April 24 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Tables are available for \$50 each. If you would like to be a vendor, please contact Lucy at 917-335-2695 or Angie at 917-841-5219 as soon as possible.

A Trip to the Cape Cod Irish Village, lead by Father Vincent Daly from Our Lady of Perpetual Help in South Ozone Park, will take place from May 10 to 14, 2010. Tours to Boston, Provincetown, Plymouth Rock, and the JFK Museum in Hyannis are included. Mass will be celebrated when possible. Daily breakfast, three dinners and one buffet lunch are included. The cost is \$485 per person double. Call Father Daly or Martha at 718-843-1212 for more information.

Ozanam Hall of Queens Nursing Home in Bayside, is pleased to announce that the 13th Annual Rose of Carmel Benefit Gala will be held at Russo's on the Bay on Wednesday, May 12, 2010. Dr. Luigi Capobianco, Medical Director of Ozanam Hall, and Msgr. Jamie Gigantiello, Vicar of Development and Director of the Office of Parish Planning for the Diocese of Brooklyn and Pastor of Mary Queen of Heaven parish in Brooklyn, will be honored at the gala. All proceeds will benefit The Ozanam Geriatric Foundation. For further information or tickets, please contact Gail D. O'Donovan, Sr. Charlotte Michael or Kathleen Baratta in the Development Office at 718-971-2020/2021 or 2022.

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 pr 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.

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

FAMILY, MARRIAGE AND INDIVIDUAL THERAPY

Professional therapy, provided by New York State licensed therapists, is available to our parish and 102 other parishes. This program under the direction of Dr. George Giuliani, has been conducted in the Diocese for the past 36 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>.

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.

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!

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COMMUNITY Census 2010 - Questionnaire Assistance Center

In an effort to reach every resident the Census Bureau will be providing one-on-one assistance in filing out the questionnaire in order to remove any hesitation or concerns. Catholic Charities Queens North Community Center 23-40 Astoria Blvd. Astoria NY 11102 - (718-726-9790) will be a Questionnaire assistance Center (QAC). Census Bureau staff will be available to assist people in the completion of the Census questionnaire, and questionnaires will be available in case they are needed.

Census staff will be available at the Community Center on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 30,	9:30 am to 1 pm, and		
Wed, March 31-	9:30 am to 3:30 pm		
Tuesday	April 6 and 13 from	9:30 am to 1:00 pm	
Wednesday	April 7, and 14 from	9:30 am to 3:00 pm	
Friday,	April 9 and 16	9:30 am to 3:30 pm	

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

Eleanor Shavel and George & Elizabeth Schaber
by
Howard Shavel