

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	February 4th
5:00 PM	Anni Vecchione
Sunday	February 5th
8:30 AM	James Kickel and Pat Patterson
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Rose Brosile
6:00 PM	John Saver and John Hickey, Jr.
Monday	February 6th
7:00 AM	John Rocsin
8:30 AM	Anne Sweeney
12:00 PM	Elena Fellin
Tuesday	February 7th
7:00 AM	John Rocsin
8:30 AM	Cancer Patients (Living Intention)
12:00 PM	Mary Tykowski
Wednesday	February 8th
7:00 AM	John Rocsin
8:30 AM	Claire Scott
12:00 PM	Rev. Angelo Canestraro
Thursday	February 9th
7:00 AM	John Rocsin
8:30 AM	Victoria Polamaria
12:00 PM	Alex Facinelli
Friday	February 10th
7:00 AM	Helen O'Neill
8:30 AM	DiCapua & Bifalco Families
12:00 PM	Fabio Fondriest
Saturday	February 11th
8:30 AM	Anne Sweeney
5:00 PM	William Walters
Sunday	February 12th
8:30 AM	Elizabeth Savarese (7th Anniversary)
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Cledy DelCastillo
6:00 PM	Jacqueline Pascarelli (10th Anniversary)

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

James Schnepf, John Vecchione, Jean Buff Norton, Maureen Albert, Angela Martini, Elvira Klein, Allan Remsen, Rose D'Amico, Theresa Polancic, Bill Heilman, John Gruber, Jack & Madison Lewinger, Katherine Feger, Diana Akkerman, Cecilia Koluch, Paul Dejek, Vito Ingroia, Susan Cram, Renate Vecchione, Janis Wallenstein, Jennette Markey, Arlene Daly, Concetta Alesi, Gary Gordon, Nouhad Rizk, Eddie Livingston, Mary McTighe, Michael Simo, Robert Pearce, Mildred Provenzano, Andrew Bratt, Felicitas F. Santiago, Walter Panas, Mary Bellina, Thomas D'Auria, William Brower, Sr., Ivan Mrosovsky, Noelle Gross, Roger Ryan, Noreen Ryan, Victor Amodeo, Lauren Stumpp, Susan Herstein, Betty Manley, Jean Machalski, Richard Florio, Arlene Albert, Bishop Joseph Estabrook, Sarah Jaime, Milagros Medina, Peter Bay, Mary Fernando

**PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED**

Ellie Jaime

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 5th**

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary liturgical time.

-Second Collection – Fuel Offering.

-Children's Liturgy at the 10:00 AM Mass

MONDAY – FEBRUARY 6th

Commemoration at the Masses of St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs.

-Scripture study/prayer group – rectory at 7:30 PM.

TUESDAY – FEBRUARY 7th

Ordinary liturgical time weekday liturgy at the Masses.

-CCD Confirmation Class I – Convent at 5:00 PM.

-CCD 6th grade religious instructions – convent meeting room at 6:00 PM.

-Cub Scouts – Parish Hall at 7:00PM.

WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 8th

Ordinary liturgical time weekday liturgy at the Masses.

-OLM Golden age Club meeting – Parish Hall at noon.

-CCD religious instructions – assemble in church at 2:15 PM.

-Soccer practice – school gym – 5:45 to 7:15 PM.

-“Divine Mercy” prayer group – church at 7:00 PM.

-Boy Scouts – Parish Hall at 7:30 PM.

THURSDAY – FEBRUARY 9th

Ordinary liturgical time weekday liturgy at the Masses.

-Helping Hands Meeting – 11:00 AM in the Rectory

-CCD Confirmation Class II – 4:30 PM in the Rectory

-OLM School Talent show rehearsal – Parish Hall – 6:00 to 9:00 PM.

FRIDAY – FEBRUARY 10th

Commemoration at the Masses of St. Scholastica, Virgin.

-Daisy Scouts – School Gym at 3:30 PM.

SATURDAY – FEBRUARY 11th

Ordinary liturgical time weekday liturgy at the 8:30 AM Mass.

-Confessions – 4:00 to 4:45 PM.

-OLM School TALENT SHOW – Parish Hall – 7:00 to 11:00 PM.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children's Liturgy of the Word will be held on February 5th and February 12th. **Our program will not be held on February 19th, February 26th or March 4th** but will resume on March 11th.

ARMED SERVICES

Edy Claudio & Robert Claudio, Pvt. Jonathan Mezzancello, Capt. Paul Lentz, USAF, Lt. Julianne LoMacchio Palumbo, U.S. Navy, Lt. Gregory M. Morison, U.S. Navy, Sgt. Larry Saume, Major Patrick L. Davis, U.S. Army (JAG), Lt. Brendan T. Cremins, U.S. Navy, Capt. Peter Sulewski, U.S. Army, S/Sgt. Harry Cruz, 82nd Army Airborne, William Kasten, U.S. Navy, Vincent Adamovich, U.S. Navy, Cory Eisler, U.S. Navy, Chief Hospital Corpsman Timothy M. Gorman, U.S. Navy, SRA Julian Coca, USAF Reserve, Capt. David Gomez, USMC



Dear Parishioners;

There are certain items that tend to be buried or unreported by the secular press and news media. For instance, did you know that well over a hundred thousand protestors were at the Right to Life March in Washington last week? This annual March was unreported in the secular newspapers, while brief notice was given in the news media. For forty years the Right to Life March in Washington D.C has attracted thousands of people from all over our country but you would never know it!

Did you know that on January 20th, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reaffirmed a rule that virtually all private health care plans must cover sterilization, abortifacients and contraception? These are birth control or abortion producing drugs or procedures and they are meant to "cure" or prevent a pregnancy. If pregnancy is an illness than most of us should not be here! The rule is set to go into effect on August 1st, 2012. Non-profit religious employers are not exempted unless they specifically are teaching doctrine or serve only their co-religionists; therefore many Catholic employers are not exempt and will be given one year - until August 1st, 2013 - to comply. Under the ruling, virtually all Catholic Church ministries - schools, colleges, nursing homes, hospitals - are deemed not sufficiently Catholic to get an exemption, simply because (as Jesus did) our ministries serve people of all faiths. The exemption will only be given to those ministries that are specifically "Catholic" in every respect and which treat, educate or nurse only Catholics. There are virtually no such ministries!

Responding to the announcement, Archbishop (Cardinal-elect) Timothy Dolan of the Archdiocese of New York and president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, stated: "In effect, the president is saying that we have a year to figure out how to violate our consciences...to force Americans to choose between violating their consciences and forgoing their healthcare is literally unconscionable...it is as much an attack on access to health care as on religious freedom."

To correct the threats to religious liberty and the rights of conscience posed by this ruling, the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act has been introduced in Congress (House of Representative #1179, Senate #1467). This measure will ensure that those who participate in the health care system "retain the right to provide, purchase, or enroll in health coverage that is consistent with their religious beliefs and moral convictions." It is important that Catholics make their voices heard.

For more information on this important issue, please e-mail The New York State Catholic Conference at: network@nyscatholic.org.

In another development, by Wednesday, February 1st, the day that the copy for the weekly bulletin must be submitted, not one "Called By Name" Response Card had been received. Two weeks ago, a "clip out" version of the response card was incorporated in the bulletin. It is possible that of approximately eight hundred people at Church that Sunday, nobody can think of even one young person over the age of eighteen who has the potential makings of a future priest or religious? Perhaps people were shy about submitting someone else's name if they did not know the person or that person's intentions. However all that was asked is that the names be surfaced. It is my responsibility or that of the Vocation Office to contact the person(s). I think that most people have a pretty good idea about the type of person who they would like to see as church leaders in the future.

Each of us quite naturally becomes distressed when we read the dreary news about parishes or schools closing. But in each case, the reasons are the same. We do not have the financial wherewithal or the religious personnel to keep every parish open no matter how large or small. The average age of priests in this Diocese is fifty seven years and probably the median is older. What is to be in the near future? Are we looking forward to a long established Catholic Church which will be highly dependent on the graciousness of foreign born priests and religious? If so, it is an anomaly. In the past, missionaries brought the Gospel to others lands, and when a native clergy developed, the missionaries were withdrawn. We are heading in the other direction.

We have an established Church increasingly dependent on priests and religious from overseas. Thank God for them but their presence does not excuse us from the continued development of native vocations. This May marks my fortieth anniversary as a Diocesan priest. It is a good life, especially when I consider the amount of good that has come about because of the proclamation of the Gospel, the administration of the Sacraments, particularly the Eucharist, and hours spent in teaching or counseling.

To the best of my knowledge since my ordination in 1972, there have been only two other ordinations to the priest hood from our parish: Monsignor Douglas Mathers, who serves in the Archdiocese of New York as the Vice-Chancellor, and Father Jim Krische, who serves as an army chaplain with our military men and women in Afghanistan. There may also be one or two religious vocations. I am not sure of Monsignor Mather's biographical details; but Father Krische and I shared several things in common. Though thirteen years apart in age, we both grew up on Manse Street, attended Archbishop Molloy High School and Immaculate Conception Seminary in Huntington. Father attended Our Lady of Mercy School which was not built in my grade school years. P.S. 144 and the school of our mother Parish, Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, were the sites of my early intellectual advancement.

I mention these biographical details simply to emphasize the fact that vocations develop among average people in fairly ordinary homes. The common strand is the conviction that God is calling you to serve His people. Future vocations will blossom only with the active support of families and our church and school communities. Will we rise to the challenge?

Monsignor John A. McGuirl

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Each year, we provide an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation to adults (age 18 and older who were Baptized and received First Communion) 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 27, 2012. If you or someone you know can benefit from this opportunity, please contact Sister as soon as possible.

COMMUNITY NEWS

-Consider joining the **Helpers of God's Precious Infants** at the All Women's Pavilion, 69-30 Austin Street, on Saturdays between 7:00 AM and 11:30 AM in a peaceful, prayerful witness to life. Lives are saved and the way to conversion is opened. Join us for any amount of time .

-**Gianna** – The Catholic Healthcare Center for Women, located at 15 East 40th Street in Manhattan, offers a new approach to women's healthcare. For more information, call 212-481-1219 or visit www.giannahealth.org.

-**The St. John's University Speech and Hearing Center**, 152-11 Union Turnpike, Jamaica, will be offering free **Hearing Aid Help** and free **Speech and Hearing Screenings** from January 30, 2012 through May 7, 2012. Please call the Center at 718-990-6480 to schedule an appointment.

-**The Fr. Solanus Guild of St. John the Baptist Church**, 210 W. 31 Street in Manhattan, invites you to join them for a Pilgrimage and Retreat to the Venerable Solanus Casey, OFM Cap. Center in Detroit, Michigan from August 20 - 24, 2012. The cost is \$699.00 per person, which includes meals, lodging in a private guest room, motorcoach transportation and gratuities. For more information, call John Albanese at 201-615-7680. For reservations, call Bove Travel at 718-680-3333.

50-50 RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the January Winners of the
50-50 Raffle:

1st Prize:	The Freeley Family - JKCA	\$320.00
2nd Prize:	Joan Minischetti	\$160.00
3rd Prize:	Janusz Nowak	\$160.00
4th Prize:	Gregory & Carol Hanna	\$80.00
5th Prize:	Nada Wagner	\$80.00

DIVINE MERCY SCHEDULE

February 8	7:00pm	Divine Mercy Cenacle
February 15	7:00pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction -
February 22		No Activity
February 29	7:00pm	Divine Mercy Praise and Devotion

ADVANCE NOTICE

BLOOD DRIVE

**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 26, 2012 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. Blood types A-, B- and O- are especially needed. For more information and/or to make a blood donation appointment, please call Sue Karcher at the Rectory Office (268-6143).

FOUNDATIONS FOR MINISTRY PROGRAM AND

3-YEAR LAY MINISTRY PROGRAM

The Pastoral Institute of the Diocese of Brooklyn is sponsoring a ten session Foundations for Ministry Program. The program is designed for those discerning application to the Pastoral Institute's 3-year Lay Ministry Program, for Parish Pastoral Council members and those responsible for implementing Parish Pastoral Plan goals and objectives, and for those already involved in parish ministry seeking a theological update. The program is being offered in several languages at various sites throughout the diocese. Locally, the program is being offered in English at Our Lady of the Angelus in Rego Park, one of our cluster parishes, on Thursday evenings between February 9 and May 10, from 7:15 PM to 9:15 PM.

The Pastoral Institute is also recruiting new candidates for the 3-year Lay Ministry Program which will begin in September. Parishioners are encouraged to become more involved in parish life and to consider enrolling in this program to become a commissioned lay pastoral leader. Through this program, candidates will meet others throughout the diocese who share the calling to lay ministry.

If you would like first-hand information or an application form for either of these programs, please contact Sue Karcher, as soon as possible, either at the Rectory Office (718-268-6143) or see her in the Sacristy after any Mass.



Are you ready for some Football?

Join us for a Super Bowl Party

Sunday February 5th

6pm

Our Lady of Mercy Parish Hall

VIEWING IN A BIG GIANT SCREEN

6 Foot Hero and soda will be served.

Bring your own favorite junk food, beer or drinks.



\$12/Adult; \$10/Adult wearing anything blue

\$7/child (8-16 years old);

\$5/child wearing anything blue

Net proceeds to go to Our Lady of Mercy Parish.

RSVP Rubi 718 520 8695 or Noel 917-400-4752

First 20 people to RSVP will be admitted FREE

Don't fumble and be late!

This is a rare event to cheer the New York Giants with your neighbors and friends.

“Super Bowl watched any other way is just a game”

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. The next “Three Things Talks” topic will be “The Mass: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.” 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, February 11, 2012 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The first talk will begin at 10:00 AM, the second will begin at 11:00 AM and the third will begin at Noon. Following each presentation, there will be 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.

GOLDEN AGE CLUB

BUS TRIP TO ATLANTIC CITY

The Golden Age Club is sponsoring a bus trip to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Tuesday, February 7, 2012.

Departure time is 8:00 AM from Our Lady of Mercy and 8:15 AM from Our Lady Queen of Martyrs. The cost is \$34.00 per person, with a \$25.00 bonus and \$10.00 for food. For details, please contact Gwen at 718-739-6646.

Atlantic City Bus Trip



LAY MINISTRY SUNDAY

This year, Lay Ministry Sunday will be celebrated throughout the diocese on the weekend of February 18/19.

Laity Sunday



There will be a special blessing at all of the Masses to recognize that all of us, as lay people in the Church, minister to and serve one another in many ways. There will be a Coffee Hour after the 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM Masses on Sunday morning. All are invited!