

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY - December 9

5:00 pm: Craig Schneider --- Mom

SUNDAY December 10 -Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 am: Anna Smaldino -- Gregg & Mary Ann

10:30 am:

1. Charles & Concetta Pascucci - Marianne & John Pinto
2. Antoinette Graffeo -- Lorraine Borrero
3. Theresa Kavaliauskas --- Family

12:30 pm: Misa Pro Populo

Mon. - Dec. 11 - St. Damasus

8:30 am: Lucy & Michael Sica ---- Family

Tues. - Dec. 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:30 am: Marissa Jean-Louis (Living) -- Sister, Jessie

Wed. - Dec. 13 -- St. Lucy

8:30am: Jeremiah O'Connell --- Family

Thurs. Dec. 14- St. John of the Cross

8:30 am: Vito A. Merola --- Family

Fri. - Dec. 15

8:30 am: John Sosna --- Donna & Steve

Sat. - December 16

- 8:30 am: 1. Theresa Kavaliauskas --- Family
2. Nicola Seripierri_ Jovie
3. Habacon Family --- Olivia Habacon

5:00 pm: Misa Pro Populo

Sun. - Dec. 17- Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 am: Theresa Kavaliauskas --- Family

- 10:30 am: 1. Tereza Santos --- Family
2. Margot Cigliano --- Suzanne Malench
3. Joseph O'Rourke --- Marie, Joey & John

12:30 pm: Anthony Roman --- Family

The Gifts of Bread and Wine are offered this week:

*~ In Loving Memory of Anthony Zafferese ~
Requested by the Family*

*The Altar Candles are offered this week:
~ In Loving Memory of Estelito Santos ~
Requested by the Family*

+ REMEMBER THE DECEASED +

Eternal Rest grant unto them Lord. May perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace; and may their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. ~ Amen

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CH-Church, SC-Sullivan Center, S-School, SA-School Auditorium, MC- Murray Center, RC-Kateri (Rectory) Chapel ---BR--Board Room

SUNDAY - December 10

- 50/50 Christmas Fair raffles are on sale
Drawing after 12:30 pm Mass



MONDAY- December 11

- Rosary Society - 1 pm -- SC
- Alcoholics Anonymous (Beginners Mts.) 7-8 pm - SC
- Alcoholics Anonymous (Open Mtg.) 8:30 - 9:30 pm-SC

TUESDAY - Dec. 12

- RCIA - 7:30 pm - MC
- BINGO - SC -7:30 PM

Total Prizes: \$3,000. Early Bird 7:15 PM.



***** **HANDICAP ACCESS** *****

Tues. Dec. 26 --- NO BINGO

Please join us! We are grateful for all of our volunteers.

WEDNESDAY - Dec. 13

- Alcoholics Anonymous - big book - 7 pm-SC
- Alcoholics Anonymous - C - 8:30 pm -SC

THURSDAY - Dec. 14

- Leisure Club -- 11 am -- SC
- Knights of Columbus - 7:45 pm -- MC

SUNDAY - Dec. 17

- Religious Education - S

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AT AMERICAN MARTYRS

- Sat. Dec. 9 - Christmas Tree Lighting & Carols - American Martyrs Choir - 5 pm Mass
- Sun. Dec. 10 - Christmas Fair raffle drawing- 1:30 pm
- Mon. Dec. 11 - Rosary Society - 1 pm -- SC
- **Tues. Dec. 26 --- NO BINGO**
- Sat. Dec. 30 - CWV-SC after 8:30 am Mass

CHRISTMAS GIFT

Please consider making a Christmas gift to American Martyrs Church.

Envelopes have been placed at the doors and front pews of the Church for the convenience of those who do not receive envelopes at home.



Sunday Collections

Last Weekend - December 3, 2017

My Monthly Offering for the Support of my Church--\$7,456.
Christmas Flowers - \$2,054.

This Weekend - December 10, 2017

My Weekly Offering for the Support of my Church.
Retirement Fund for the Elderly Religious- to help senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests in need of assistance. Please give generously.

Next Weekend - December 17, 2017

My Weekly Offering for the Support of my Church.

*******NOTE:** Please make all checks payable to:
American Martyrs Church.

If you are unable to attend Mass for a few Sundays, please use your "Catch Up" envelope for your contributions.

We need you & your financial support!

ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE: It's a convenient and secure way to make your regular Sunday contributions and there's no cost to you to set up your account on line. Just go to: e-giving.org/americanmartyrschurch and follow the instructions.

Please remember the Roman Catholic Church of American Martyrs in your will and estate planning.

Please Pray for our Sick, Homebound and Hospitalized:

Paula Abel, Jackie Arriaga, Alex Aponte, Marge Aquino, Josephine Attard, Elsa & Vivian Barbagallo, Roberto Barrientos, Mary Margaret Benza, Iride Bubek, Frances Burgess, Frank Carroll, Chang Family, William Christopher, Ralph Colamussi, Jessie Carlone, Carrie Enright, Jo Anne Failla, John Fazio, Diana Ferrante, Terry Flexer, Michael Gorry, Mary Grecco, Wilson Grullon, Ray Hippeli, Daniel Hoffner, John Horvat, Dr. Pamela Ierardi, Joseph Kinney, Bill Krug, Gabriella Losasso, Cathy Losito, Mary & Ralph Marazzo, Aida Maravilla, Steve Mattaliano, Susan McConnell, Ed McGrath, Danny Montchal, Mary Fitzgerald Murray, Ed Myles, Pat North, Estella Palucious, Walter Panas, Rosemary Parente, Sal Piazza, Lynn Pickett, Peg Pinto, Guillermo Ramirez, Maria Ramirez, Alexander Ramos, Gloria Ricioppi, Lily & Mike Rivera, Patrice Rohde, Arlene Scherne, Frank Schusteritsch, Lee Servillo, Adam Singer, George Stellakis, Mary Sweeney, Suzanne Szalkiewicz, Joan Wagner, Jesse Wagner, Lorraine Walsh, Ed Wilm, McCaila Young, Genevieve Zenka, Fireman & 9/11 Survivor - Michael Arriaga.

If you would like to add a name to our sick list, please call the Rectory office.

Also, please pray for the men and women of our Armed Forces serving in the U.S. and abroad.

Nothing is more powerful than the power of prayer.



MITTEN DRIVE



Our **MITTEN DRIVE** is underway and the baskets will be at the entrances to the Church. We are collecting gently used or new Adult's and Children's Mittens/Gloves Hats & Scarves. These items will be delivered to local shelters to warm needy families.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

"KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" - Poster Contest

Please encourage the young people in your life to share their talents and remind us all of the true meaning of Christmas by having them enter the "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest sponsored by our Father John J. Murray Knights of Columbus Council. Open to children ages 5 through 14, first (\$25 gift card) and second (\$15 gift card) place prizes will be awarded in three age groups. All entries must be submitted by Sunday, December 17th.



Contact kofc14666fm@gmail.com if your child has not already received an entry form with the rules or for further information.

CHRISTIAN REFUGEE RELIEF FUND

To help aide our suffering Christian sisters and brothers in the Middle East the Father John J. Murray Knights of Columbus Council will be selling selling buttons and magnets during Advent. All proceeds are being donated to the Knights of Columbus Christian Refugee Relief Fund. There are five different "Keep Christ in Christmas" buttons that sell for \$2 each or 3 for \$5. The "Jesus - The Reason for the Season" car magnets are 5.75" round and depict a beautiful, full color version of Mary holding baby Jesus and sell for \$5 each. Thank you in advance for your support and your prayers.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2017

Sunday - December 24, 2017

8:30 am, 10:30 am & 12:30 pm

5 pm & Midnight Mass - Christmas Eve

Monday - December 25, 2017 - Christmas Day

8:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm

Sunday - December 31, 2017

8:30 am, 10:30 am 12:30 pm (No 5 pm Mass)

Monday - January 1, 2018 - Solemnity of Mary

8:30 am Mass in Church

REGISTRATION FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CCD)

Children entering the 1st grade should enroll NOW in order to receive first communion in second grade—registration forms can be found at the Church entrances. **Children in all grades** who have not previously been enrolled in Religious Education or transferring to American Martyrs' program should call the Religious Education office at 718-464-6411 for an application.

Please check our website:

AMReligion Class.Weebly.com

for school closings due to inclement weather.

Religious Education email:

AMReligionClass@gmail.com

***** COMMUNITY NEWS *****

Catholic Charities - Bayside Senior Center-

221-15 Horace Harding Expy. 718-225-1144 Serves full meals at 11:30 every day. Programs: Chair Yoga, Line Dancing, Tai Chi, Exercise, Bingo, Computer, and more.

Sisters of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus:

Will minister and care for the elderly in their own homes. Call 718-888-7708.

Catholic Charities Home-base Program - assists those with housing crisis, (i.e.-- rental arrears, utility shutoffs, etc.) Call 718-674-1000 for more information.

St. Vincent de Paul: Donate your old Car, Truck or Van - running or not. 718-491-2525. The Society will give back \$75/\$200 to American Martyrs. For anyone that has a neglected vehicle that they would like to dispose of contact:

SVDPAUTO@GMAIL.COM

IRS Tax Deduction - Free Towing - Any Condition.

Al-Anon and Ala-teen Family Groups: if you've been affected by or are concerned about someone else's drinking, you've come to the right place! Hope, help, and happiness are attainable. www.nycalanon.org -- 212-941-0094

Catholic Charities Neighborhood Home Delivered Meals:

Are you or someone you know 60+ years old, living in the North-east Queens area and would benefit from a hot meal each day? Call 718-357-4903 for more information.

Meals-on-Wheels -- Sub. Drivers needed on call--Mon - Sat. 4 hours per workday. 718-357-4903 #1 - Maria or Kathy

Alzheimer's Adult Day Program - Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services. Mental and physical stimulation, a hot lunch and door to door transportation. 718-358-3541. Weekly caregiver support group.

Nar-Anon Never Alone: is a 12-step support group for anyone affected by a loved one's use/abuse of drugs. 718-217-0364.

St. Josaphat's CHRISTMAS FLEA MARKET

SUNDAY 12/10/ from 9AM -4 P.M., located on 35 Ave & 210St. BAYSIDE, 11361.

Wonderful gifts, light breakfast and lunch is available. Polish meats, breads and bakery items will for sale.

2017 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

~ *Live in Faith Give in Love* ~

Annual Appeal Goal for 2017:	\$61,392.
Amount Pledged:	\$103,535.
Amount Received:	\$99,732.
Donors:	286

Pledge envelopes have been placed at all the entrances to the Church. You can make a pledge online by going to **www.rcdobdonate.org**, or simply mail in the commitment form on the back of the **Tablet** with the amount of your pledge. Some companies have matching gift programs, so please check to see if your place of employment participates. If you have not yet seen the video presentation, you may do so on our **website:**

americanmartyrs-queens.org.
Remember, every dollar received over goal comes back to the Parish.

Thank you for all you do for American Martyrs.

~ *Reverend Frank L. Schwarz, Pastor*

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS at LINCOLN CENTER

Join **Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio** and
Futures in Education

in support of Catholic Schools at the
Spirit of Christmas Spectacular at Lincoln Center
starring -- **Daniel Rodriguez, Alfio, Charlie Romo**
and Broadway Stars

On **Monday, December 18, at 8 pm.** For tickets,
contact: **Lincoln Center at 212-721-6500.**

**Lord, let us see your kindness
and grant us your salvation.**

+ PURGATORIAL SOCIETY +

The Purgatorial Society enrolls a deceased loved one in 12 monthly Masses (starting on the month of enrollment) offered on the first Sunday of every month at the 10:30 am Mass. The stipend to enroll a loved one is \$25.00. The names of those enrolled for the first month will be published in the bulletin.

ADVENT PRAYER

May Advent be a time of hope. We go to encounter the Lord who comes to encounter us. **Amen**

INFANCY NARRATIVES

Deacon Stan is conducting a class in the Murray Center on the Infancy Narratives which will run through Advent.



REFLECTION

Our readings from Holy Scripture on this Second Sunday of Advent remind us of what we are supposed to be doing during Advent, in fact throughout our lives. The reading from Isaiah anticipates the coming of Christ and John the Baptist as it proclaims "... prepare the way of the Lord." This is a time of preparation for us.



That message is repeated in our Gospel from St. Mark. Today's Gospel is the absolute beginning of Mark's Gospel and it immediately gives us that same signal by declaring, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." Of course, we all realize that the path to the Lord may not always be straight for us, but now is a time to correct that.

God is waiting for us. St. Peter in his Second Letter, from which our Second Reading is drawn, indicates that God, however, "is patient with you." You might say on this Second Sunday of Advent that the Lord is giving us a second chance to respond to His call. One of the basics of St. John the Baptist's messages was that we need to get ourselves right with the Lord, perhaps turn our lives in a different direction. We can change; now is the time to do that.

Pope St. John XXIII once stated during a homily in Advent, "We are all part of an immense family. This is proven by what is in our hearts during Advent and Christmas." Now is the time to put love in our hearts and to truly prepare the way of the Lord.

~ thecatholicsteward.com

2018 Mass Book Intentions

The 2018 Mass Intention book is open.

You may choose to commemorate a death anniversary, wedding anniversary, birthday remembrance, in healing, or simply a prayer of thanksgiving. **Each offering is \$15.** Please come to the Rectory or call to request a special Mass offering for your loved one. Also, you may wish to offer the gifts of Bread and Wine or the Altar Candles for one week. **The offering is \$25. Mass Intention forms are located on the tables in the Church.**



Please do not bring food or drinks into Church.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH-CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Amount Pledged: \$1,240,000.

Total Paid on Pledges: \$707,236.

Amount returned to American Martyrs: \$270,375.

Number of Parishioners participating: 310

I am very excited to tell you that work on the Church roof and pointing is almost completed. We will do everything possible to minimize any inconvenience to our parishioners. ***Please be patient as this long overdue work progresses!***



For those who have pledged, thank you for your faithfulness in fulfilling your pledges. It is due to your generosity that this work can be done.

ROSARY SOCIETY

Our Christmas Party will be held Monday, Dec. 11 at 1 pm in the Sullivan Center. Join us for light refreshments, coffee & cake.



All Ladies are welcome to join us!

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

God of my hopeful prayers, I often struggle to find You in the commotion of this season. Even in my moments of quiet prayer and worship, I can't hear your voice or understand your will. But here's what I have learned over the years: You are always present when I call out to you, always trying to find me. So often I lack the confidence of knowing that if I but reach out toward you, I will reach you. Embolden me, Lord. Instill hope in me, I pray. And, especially as I prepare myself for your Incarnation, allow me to know that you are always there, waiting for me to turn toward you.

~ Amen

*****The NOVEMBER 50/50 Winner:*****

Congratulations to Marie de Angelis who won \$102.50 in our November drawing. Look for the **December 50/50 (yellow) envelope** which is included in your monthly mailing of donation envelopes. The next drawing will be held after the last Sunday in **December.** **Good Luck!**

Our Christmas Fair 50/50 Raffle tickets are being sold after all Masses. The raffle drawing will be held on **December 10** after the 12:30 Mass. Raffle tickets are only **\$10.**