

MASSES FOR THE WEEKSATURDAY - December 17, 2016

5:00 pm: Craig Schneider --- Mother

SUN. Dec. 18, 2016 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 am: Cullen & McGrath Families --- M. Cullen

10:30 am: 1. John F. (Jack) Bills -- Annmarie

2. George Miller --- Susan Miller

3. Robert John DiMasi --- DeBenedictis Family

12:30 pm: Misa Pro Populo

Mon. - December 19

8:30 am: Elizabeth Schatzer- Marty, Paula & Gayle

4 pm - 8 pm -- Confessions in Church

Tues. Dec. 20

8:30 am: Iris Machado (Living) --- Friends

Wed. - Dec. 21 - St. Peter Canisius

8:30 am: William Bennett -- Mary Ann & Gregg

Thurs. December 22

8:30 am: William Bennett -- Steve & Monica

Fri. - Dec. 23 - St. John of Kanty

8:30 am: Frantz Roody Jean-Louis (Living) -- Jessie

Saturday - December 24

9:00 am: 1. Joseph & Marie de Angelis --- Daughter

2. Natalie Barnett (Living) -- Grandmother

3. Jeremiah O'Connell --- Family

5:00 pm: Misa Pro Populo

12:00 Midnight: Joan Shanahan Kearney --- Family

Sunday - Dec. 25 - The Nativity of the Lord8:30 am: Vincent & Eleanor Calace & Susan (Calace)
Scheno --- Victoria & Family

10:30 am: 1. Joseph Clifford -- Wife & Daughter

2. Anthony Zafferese --- John, Linda & Cindy

3. Andrew Linsalata & Domenick Masone - Andrea

12:30 pm: Ruggieri Family --- Family

*The Gifts of Bread and Wine are offered this week:**~ In Loving Memory of Legia Cepeda ~
requested by the Cepeda Family**The Altar Candles are offered this week:**~ In Loving Memory of John F. (Jack) Bills
requested by Annmarie**The Sanctuary Lamp is offered this week:**~ In Loving Memory of Joan Shanahan Kearney ~
requested by her Family***CALENDAR OF EVENTS**CH-Church, SC-Sullivan Center, S-School, SA-School
Auditorium, MC-Murray Center, KC-Kateri (Rectory)
Chapel ---BR--Board RoomSunday- December 18

- Rel. Ed. Christmas party -SC

MONDAY- December 19

- Advent Reconciliation - 4-8 pm -CH
- Alcoholics Anonymous (Beginners Mts.) 7-8 pm - SC
- Alcoholics Anonymous (Open Mtg.) 8:30 - 9:30 pm-SC

TUESDAY - Dec. 20

- BINGO - SC -7:30 PM

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

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

“NO Smoking” “Air Conditioned” Please join us!
We are grateful for all of our volunteers.

WEDNESDAY - Dec. 21 - Winter Begins

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

THURSDAY - Dec. 22

- Leisure Club - 11 am - 3 pm - SC
- Knights of Columbus --7:45 pm - MC

SUNDAY- December 25

- Merry Christmas!

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AT AMERICAN MARTYRS

- Mon. Dec. 26 -- Rectory Office Closed
- Tues. Dec. 27 -- Bingo! - SC

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2016Saturday- December 24, 2016 - Christmas Eve

5 pm & Midnight

Sunday - December 25, 2016 - Christmas Day

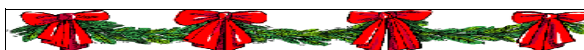
8:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm

Saturday - December 31, 2016

5 pm Vigil Mass

Sunday - January 1, 2017

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



Sunday CollectionsLast Weekend --December 11, 2016

My Weekly Offering for the Support of my Church- \$7,402.
Religious Retirement Fund - \$1,528.

This Weekend - December 18, 2016

My Weekly Offering for the Support of my Church.
My Christmas Gift to my Church.

Next Weekend - December 25, 2016

My Weekly Offering for the Support of my Church.
Christmas Offering for Our Church.

Catholic Charities - special Christmas offering to
help care for children & families of the Diocese.

*****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 our website:
Americanmartyrsbayside.com and click on the big **Parish Giving**
red button on the right 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, Jeffrey Arcello, Josephine Attard, Roberto Barrientos, Cecilia Bello, Mary Margaret Benza, Iride Bubek, Owen Canavan, Joan Cerrone, Chang Family, William Christopher, Ralph Colamussi, Jen Costa, Florence D'Anna, Eva Maria Ditaranto, Carrie Enright, John Fazio, Diana Ferrante, Terry Flexer, Michael Gorry, Rose Granelli, Margaret Grasso, Mary Grecco, Daniel Hoffner, John Horvat, Philip Hren, Dr. Pamela Ierardi, Joseph Kinney, Bill Krug, Cathy Losito, Mary & Ralph Marazzo, Aida Maravilla, Susan McConnell, C. J. Marino, Danny Montchal, Minor Morales, Mary Fitzgerald Murray, Pat North, Walter Panas, Sal Piazza, Lynn Pickett, Peg Pinto, Guillermo Ramirez, Maria Ramirez, Alexander Ramos, Lorraine Rensch, Gloria Ricioppi, Lily & Mike Rivera, Patrice Rohde, Lee Servillo, Adam Singer, George Stellakis, Sheila Still, Mary Sweeney, Suzanne Szalkiewicz, Denise Tully, Joan Wagner, McCaila Young, Fred Uy, Jacqueline Zeller, 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.**

+ REMEMBER THE DECEASED +

**Robert Sonneman
Florence D' Anna**

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

Please take pleasure in our new seat cushions, but
please do **not** bring food or drinks into the Church.


A Note From The Music Ministry

Our Adult Choir needs reinforcements. We sing at
the Sunday 10:30 Mass every week, and rehearse
after Mass, with a few additional rehearsals down the
road. Please see Pat White at the organ, for more
information.

**"God is peace: let us ask Him to help us to be
peacemakers each day, in our life, in our families,
in our cities and nations, in the whole world. Let
us allow ourselves to be moved by the goodness of
God."** ~ Pope Francis

Queens Deanery #5 Facebook Page

Join Queens Deanery #5 on Facebook where you will
learn more about the upcoming spiritual events in the
parishes of our Deanery, as well as find all of the weekly
bulletins, contact information, Mass schedules and so
much more. Just visit Queens Deanery #5 on Facebook
and "like" the page to receive updates, or visit us on the
web at:

 www.queensdeanery5.org
[Facebook.com/Queens Deanery 5](https://www.facebook.com/QueensDeanery5)

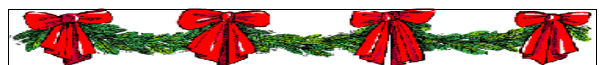
Let the Lord enter; He is king of glory!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to **Mr. Patrick White** who was the
winner of our 50/50 Christmas Fair Raffle! Ellie
Foresta sold him the winning ticket!

+ 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 DAY OF RECONCILIATION
MONDAY - DECEMBER 19

Advent is the time of year when we prepare for Christmas, celebrating the encounter between God and ourselves. Pope Francis has encouraged us to attend to God's presence in order to deepen our relationship with Jesus, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



In preparation of Advent, Monday, December 19, our Diocese will join the Archdiocese of New York in celebrating Advent Reconciliation Monday. Over 500 Churches in NY City and upper counties will be simultaneously offering the sacrament - a powerful invitation to those Catholics who may be away from the sacrament, to be drawn back to this encounter with God's reconciling love.

Confessions will be heard from 4 pm to 8 pm in Church on Monday, December 19.

This Advent, let us open our hearts to God's presence by listening more attentively to God's Word in Scripture and to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our hearts so that when Christmas arrives we can welcome Jesus with joy and make our lives a gift of love and service.

**The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
And they shall name him Emmanuel.**

CHRISTMAS VIGIL

On Christmas Eve, between the last liturgy of Advent and Midnight Mass, the Church celebrates the Christmas Vigil. Vigils are important ritual reminders that good things come to those who watch and wait. Like the shepherds on the hillsides, we realize that God does not usually arrive "on schedule" or with pomp and circumstance, but in the obscure places and unexpected moments. We keep vigil so that the Lord will not arrive unnoticed, unwelcomed, and unheralded.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH-CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Amount Pledged: \$1,273,235.

Total Paid on Pledges: \$461,545.

Amount returned to American Martyrs: \$195,822.

Number of Parishioners participating: 304

Work on the Church roof and pointing will commence in the Spring of 2017. Total projected cost of the project is \$725,000.

For those who have pledged, thank you for your faithfulness in fulfilling your pledges.



Mitten Drive !

Boxes are at the entrances of our Church, through January, to collect gently-used or new Gloves, Mittens, Scarves and Hats for children and adults. These items will be donated each week to the Salvation Army family residence for those less fortunate than ourselves to help make their winter more comfortable.



2017 Mass Book Intentions

The 2017 Mass Intention book is now 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.**

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.



SATURDAY MORNING MASS-TIME CHANGE

Please note the time change: As of January 1, 2017, the Mass on **Saturday mornings** will be at **8:30 am. Monday through Saturday, all Masses will be at 8:30 am in the Rectory Chapel.**

All Sunday Masses will stay the same: 5 pm-Saturdays; 8:30 am, 10:30 am & 12:30 pm.

When you receive the Eucharist today, imagine yourself at the manger. Then pray, "**Lord, show me your glory.**" If you feel a sense of happiness or a desire to bow down and thank God or an impulse to reach out to someone who is hurting, take this as a sign the Holy Spirit is enlivening our spiritual instincts. As these instincts come to life, they will influence the way you think and act. You'll find yourself becoming more loving, more forgiving, and more peaceful - especially in difficult times. God wants all His people to look to Him and have their instincts awakened.

"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 18th. 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 - K of C

To help aid our suffering Christian sisters and brothers in the Middle East the Father John J. Murray Knights of Columbus Council will be 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.

***** 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.

Family, Marriage and Individual Therapy- The Catholic Counseling Center offers professional therapy by NYS licensed therapists. 631-243-2503. Dr. George Giuliani. Or visit: thecatholiccounselingcenter.com

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-718-491-2525. The Society will give back \$50/\$100 to American Martyrs.

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 Northeast 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.

2016 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

~ *Share the Joy of the Gospel* ~

Annual Appeal Goal for 2016: \$61,392.

Amount Pledged (as of 11/28/16): \$88,250.

Amount Received: \$81,051.

Donors: 245



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 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: americanmartyrsbayside.com.

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*

ADVENT REFLECTION

It is the final Sunday of Advent, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, yet because of the calendar in this year of 2016, Christmas is still a full week away. We may ask ourselves if we are prepared for Christmas, but that question may focus on the wrong things — we may be thinking of decorations and Christmas gifts and Christmas dinners.

However, the question we should be asking is “**Are our souls ready for Christmas?**” That should be the most important part of our Advent preparation. **Is God present within us? Are we ready to welcome Christ? Do we acknowledge our need to be prepared for Christ's Second Coming?**

In his letter to the Romans, the Second Reading, St. Paul uses the phrase “the Spirit of holiness.” Paul, and in a more important way Christ Himself, calls us to holiness. Holiness is more than what we do; it has everything to do with what we are. It has to do with our very identity. **Holiness is characterized by our relationship with the Lord. We are waiting for Christ, but the reality is that Christ is waiting for us. God loves us; knowing and responding to that love is holiness.**

St. Teresa of Calcutta may have said it best when she stated, “**It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you. Yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at someone and offer them your hand.**” Doing that is being holy, too; that, too, is stewardship.

-thecatholicsteward.com