

Sunday CollectionsLast Weekend - December 23, 2018

Weekly Offering for the Support of my Church.

Dec. 25 -- Christmas Offering for our Church.

Dec. 25 -- Catholic Charities -- caring for children and families.

(Donations will be reported next weekend)

This Weekend - December 30, 2018

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, Janet Altieri, Marge Aquino, Joel Arapiles, Eugenia Arpino, Elsa Barbagallo, Roberto Barrientos, Mary Margaret Benza, Iride Bubek, Frances Burgess, Bill Corrar, Frank Carroll, Chang Family, William Christopher, Ralph Colamussi, Jessie Carlone, Carrie Enright, John Fazio, Diana Ferrante, Terry Flexer, Anne Gorry, Michael Gorry, Wilson Grullon, Ray Hippeli, Herman Hiris, Daniel Hoffner, William Krug, Cathy Losito, Ralph Marazzo, Aida Maravilla, Brian Mastrococco, Susan McConnell, Peter Mesologites, Danny Montchal, Mary Fitzgerald Murray, Ed Myles, Walter Panas, Rosemary Parente, Kathleen Pastore, Sal Piazza, Peg Pinto, Guillermo Ramirez, Maria Ramirez, Alexander Ramos, Amelia Reyes, Lily & Mike Rivera, Patrice Rohde, Kinsey Saleh, John Sheridan, Jr., Arlene Scherne, Marie Scuderi, Lee Servillo, Adam Singer, George & Gussie Stellakis, Mary Sweeney, Suzanne Szalkiewicz, Rosemary Tricarico, Julio Villagran, Joan Wagner, Jesse Wagner, Jim Walsh, Carolann Wilk, 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.

PILGRIMAGE TO GERMANY & AUSTRIA

Please join Bishop Cisneros, Spiritual Director and Rev. Frank Schwarz, Chaplain, on **May 12 - 21, 2020** for this 10 day, once-in-a-lifetime, pilgrimage to the 42nd world-famous Passion Play which takes place every ten years in Oberammergau!

Highlights include: Wurzburg, Mainz, Rhine River Cruise, Heidelberg, Salzburg, Neuschwanstein Castle, Munich, and of course the Passion Play in the town of Oberammergau.

Visit: Peter's Way Tours at petersway.com.
Information is available at the Rectory Office

2019 Mass Book Intentions

You may choose to commemorate a death anniversary, wedding anniversary, birthday remembrance, in healing, or simply a prayer of thanksgiving. Each offering is \$15. You can pick up a Mass Intention sheet at the doors of the Church, 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.**

POPE FRANCIS

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention.

In Service of Transmission of Faith

That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

HEALING - Hope Starts Here

Whatever our wounds, Jesus comes to heal us. He does not write us off: The very reality that calls out for healing becomes a sign of hope. Jesus will not only patch our hurts, he will bring abundant life.

Is there a relationship in your life that needs healing? Present it to Jesus, and ask him to open your own heart to the healing you need. Look it up! Psalm 103:2-4

Special Needs Parents Group

This is the Special Needs Parents Group schedule for January through June 2019: **Wednesday January 9**

Wednesday February 13 Thursday March 7

Tuesday April 2, Wednesday May 8, Thursday June 6

Call Georgette at 718-631-1307

2019 CALENDARS

Thank you to the Thomas F. Dalton Funeral Home for donating the beautiful calendars for 2019.

REFLECTION

The Holy Family experienced many of the same joys and trials that all parents and children experience today. And, so, we can look to this Family for help in our own family lives and see in them a model of stewardship in family life.



The Gospel passage from Luke starts by telling us something about Jesus' parents: "Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom." This Family took seriously the stewardship of their time. The "Holy Couple" carefully observed the traditions and practice of their Jewish faith and brought up their Son to do the same. They worshiped as a family, and with their faith community. And they did so faithfully.

We can take their example to heart by making Sunday Mass attendance a priority for our families, by making prayer with our family a priority every day, by making sure that we regularly celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and by observing in our family life the feasts and fasts appropriate to the liturgical calendar. When we, as families, prioritize our Time with God and worship of Him we will be imitating the Holy Family.

On this Feast of the Holy Family, let us reclaim the beauty and importance of family life. Let's commit to steward our families well in 2019, making time spent with God and practicing our faith the most important appointments on our family calendars.

~thecatholicsteward.com

+ PURGATORIAL SOCIETY +

~ New members enrolled for January 2019 ~

Frank & Anna Smaldino

Hedwig D. Sosna

John J. Sosna

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.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH-Capital Campaign

Amount Pledged: \$1,240,000.

Total Paid on Pledges: \$877,281.

Amount returned to American

Martyrs: \$445,745.87

Number of Parishioners participating: 314

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



CHRISTIAN REFUGEE RELIEF FUND KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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 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 BLESSINGS

As we prepare to celebrate the great gift of God to the world, the gift of His Son, my thoughts and prayers go out to the Christians who still live in the place of our Savior's birth, the Little Town of Bethlehem. Once, Christians comprised over half of the population of Bethlehem. Now, it consists of less than 2 percent. Driven out by persecution and economic deprivation, Christians have suffered greatly over the years. The few that remain continue to witness to Christ in the very land of His birth.

On Christmas Eve, Manger Square will be filled with pilgrims from all over the world who will celebrate the Incarnation along with the native Palestinian Christians. When the holidays are over, however, and the pilgrims have returned to their homes, it is only our brothers and sisters who are natives of Bethlehem that will remain and continue to profess their faith, sometimes at great risk to themselves.

Keep these brave and faithful souls in your prayers during this Christmas season. May you and your families have a most blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

~ Fr. Frank



+ REMEMBER THE DECEASED +

**Raymond Hippeli
Rev. Patrick G. Burns
Galina S. Liszewski**

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 pray for the men and women of our
Armed Forces serving in the U.S. and abroad:**

**SPC Ruby Russo - US Army
LCPL Christopher Keane - USMC
PO3 John Schaefer - USCG**

If you know of any parishioner who is currently serving in the Armed forces and would like to be added to our prayer list, please call the Rectory. 718-464-4582.

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

Pilgrimage ~ Holy Land - Barcelona

**March 10-21, 2019 - Spiritual Director: Fr. John Costello
Call: A & G Peace Tours - 718-423-5077**

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.

Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn:

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 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.

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.

2018 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

~ Answer The Call ~

We thank those who have already made a pledge, and we ask that everyone *prayerfully* consider making a gift to the 2018 Appeal.



**Annual Appeal Goal for 2018: \$59,000.
Amount Pledged: \$109,937.
Amount Received: \$106,190.
Donors: 253**

You can make your gift online at:

AnnualCatholicAppeal.org

Many companies have special *Matching Gift Programs*. **call the ACA office at: 718-965-7375, ext. 1602.** Your donation is tax deductible. CFBQ.org/ACAVideo. **Remember, every dollar received over our goal comes back to American Martyrs Parish.**

Thank you for all you do for American Martyrs.

~ Reverend Frank L. Schwarz, Pastor

The Wellness Class

This class is a 45 minute Total Body workout that includes Aerobic Movement, Resistance Training, Basic Yoga and Meditation. This class is intended for both women and men, of all fitness levels. Suggested class price is \$ 5.00. All proceeds will go to the AM Columbiettes. Next class: **January 9th at 7:00 pm in the MC.**



THE MITTEN DRIVE IS BACK!

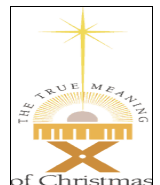
We will again be collecting donations of new or gently used mittens, gloves, hats and scarves for adults and children. Let's keep those in local family shelters warm this winter. **This drive will continue through January following the weekend Masses.**



CHRISTMAS GIFT

Please make 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.



AMERICAN MARTYRS LEISURE CLUB

New Members are always welcome! Open all year! Come join us on any Thursday from 11 am to 3 pm, in the Sullivan Center for a few fun-filled hours, to socialize, play cards, celebrate holidays & plan occasional excursions. Our facility is air -conditioned & handicap accessible.

