

MASSES FOR THE WEEKSATURDAY - December 31, 2016

5:00 pm: John & Jeanne Keating --- Family

SUN. January 1, 2017 - Solemnity of Mary

8:30 am: World Peace

10:30 am: Members of the Purgatorial Society

12:30 pm: Misa Pro Populo

Mon.- Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

8:30 am: Antoinette Graffeo -AM Rosary Society

Tues. Jan. 3 - The Most Holy Name of Jesus

8:30 am: Mandares Dornagon --- Family

Wed. - Jan 4 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

8:30 am: Annemarie & Rudi Schwarz -Fr. Frank

Thurs. Jan 5 - St. John Neumann

8:30 am: Carmella Liotta --- Angela Bjornson

Fri. - Jan 6 - St. Andre Bessette

8:30 am: Robert Sonneman - Patricia Adams

7:30 pm: First Friday Devotions - (Chapel)

Saturday - Jan 7 - St. Raymond of Penafort

8:30 am: 1. Corazon Baltero - Baltero Family

2. Clotilde Licata --- Fr. Frank

3. Eugene Flood - Fr. Frank

5:00 pm: Misa Pro Populo

Sunday - Jan. 8, 2017 -The Epiphany of the Lord

8:30 am: Frank & Anna Smaldino- Gregg & MaryAnn

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

2. Domenick Pinto --- Marianne & John Pinto

3. Grant Gegchian -- Rachelle Ventura

12:30 pm: Herman (Hank) Rohde --AM Leisure Club

The Gifts of Bread and Wine are offered this week:*~ In Loving Memory of Amalia Sosa ~
requested by the Amarain Family*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 Room

Sunday- January 1, 2017MONDAY- January 2, 2017

- Rectory Office closed
- Alcoholics Anonymous (Beginners Mts.) 7-8 pm - SC
- Alcoholics Anonymous (Open Mtg.) 8:30 - 9:30 pm-SC

TUESDAY - January 3

- **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 - January 4

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

THURSDAY - January 5

- Leisure Club - 11 -3 - SC
- Blue Knights - 8 pm - MC

SUNDAY- January 8, 2017

- Religious Education - S

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AT AMERICAN MARTYRS

- Fri. Jan 13 -- Boy Scout/Cub Scout mtg. 7:15 pm --SC

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-Saturday; 8:30 am, 10:30 am & 12:30 pm.

The Lord Bless you and keep you!
The Lord let His face shine upon you
and be gracious to you!
The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!

2017 CALENDARS

Thank you to the Thomas F. Dalton Funeral Home for
donating the beautiful calendars for 2017.

Sunday Collections

Last Weekend --December 25, 2016

My Weekly Offering for the Support of my Church- \$7,291.
 Christmas Offering for Our Church.- \$6,920.
 Catholic Charities - \$1,751.

This Weekend - January 1, 2017

My Monthly Offering for the Support of my Church.
 Solemnity of Mary -

Next Weekend - January 8, 2017

My Weekly Offering for the Support of my Church.
 Diocesan Mission.

*****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 +

**Antoinette Graffeo
 Theresa Kavaliauskas**

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.

**O God, during this Christmas season
 we are filled with the light of Your love.
 With the coming of your Son, Jesus,
 may the light of faith shine in
 our words and our actions.**

~ Amen

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

May God bless us in His Mercy!

+ PURGATORIAL SOCIETY +

New Members Enrolled for January 2017

**Virginia & Joseph Laraia
 Clotilde Licata Robert Sonneman
 Patricia Castaldo
 Rev. Msgr. George Schuster**

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.



CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Dear Parishioners,

As we celebrate the coming of “Emmanuel” (God with us), it is good for us to remember the blessings that we have received as well as the hardship so many must endure in today’s world. Today, particularly in the Middle East, there are many who suffer from violence, hunger, homelessness, religious and ethnic cleansing. Many are driven from the only homes they have ever known, hoping that some kind strangers will welcome them. These are the experiences of the Holy Family as well. As we reflect upon the infancy narratives of Jesus in both Matthew and Luke we can see that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph were not spared the indignities that so many of our fellow human beings endure. We are also reminded in scripture that by helping those who suffer so unjustly, we are helping Jesus himself, who identifies with those who suffer and are in need. (Matt. 25: 31-46).

Let us keep this season Holy by providing for those who are less fortunate than ourselves, however humble our means may be. In the end they are also “Emmanuel” for us, an opportunity to show God our gratitude by caring for the least of our brothers and sisters.

May you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

~ Rev. Frank L. Schwarz

Lord, as we begin this new year, we ask You to help us grow in holiness. Come and fill us with your love. Melt our hardened hearts, and mold us into your likeness.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH-CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Amount Pledged: \$1,270,665.

Total Paid on Pledges: \$491,485.

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

Number of Parishioners participating: 307

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.

**May God have pity on us and bless us;
May He let His face shine upon us.**

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.

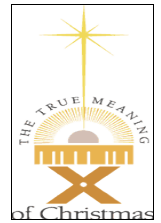
Please come to the Rectory or call to request a special Mass offering for your loved one. Also, you may wish to offer the gifts of Bread and Wine or the Altar Candles for one week.

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.



Ave Maria ~ Gratia plena! ~ Mater Dei!

Ora pro nobis peccatoribus!

We ask Mary to pray for all of us, we who are sinners and in need of redemption.



Mary, Mother of God, continue to pray for us.

You experienced our human condition of not knowing what the future held; you had to deal with fear. Help us to be open to God’s many graces.

May we emulate you in being obedient and self-giving.

~ Amen

Sincere Thanks to Our Parishioners!

On behalf of the Clergy and staff of American Martyrs Parish, I wish to express our sincere thanks for all the wonderful Christmas cards and gifts that you have sent us. Please be assured of our continuing prayers, and our wishes for a healthy and happy New Year.

~ Fr. Frank

"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*

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The blessing included in the First Reading from the Book of Numbers is one with which most of us are familiar. "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you..." In the Jewish culture this has been known for centuries as the Aaronic blessing as it was dictated by God Himself to Aaron. It is important to note that it begins with "The Lord bless you."

All blessings come from God. One error we make is to conclude that blessings always mean happiness or security or prosperity. God knows what blessings we need, even if we do not. They key for us is to be grateful for whatever blessings we may have. That mind set is at the hub of stewardship — knowing all blessings come from the Lord, and our need to be appreciative of them.

To be "kept" by the Lord is to turn our lives over to Him, to know that He is with us and that He loves us, blesses us, and does indeed "keep" us ever in His care. The truth is that to be blessed by God is one of the greatest gifts we can receive. It is available to all of us without exception.

During this continued Christmas season, it is well to remember and repeat the classic statement by the character Tiny Tim in Charles Dickens' immortal *A Christmas Carol*: "God bless us, every one," for certainly He does.

- thecatholicsteward.com