

MASSES FOR THE WEEKSATURDAY - January 6

5:00 pm: Charles Menduni --- Mom, Dad & Family

SUNDAY- Jan. 7- The Epiphany of the Lord

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

10:30 am: Members of the Purgatorial Society

12:30 pm: Misa Pro Populo

Mon. - Jan. 8 - The Baptism of the Lord

8:30 am: In Thanksgiving - Mr. & Mrs. Ballesteros

Tues. - Jan. 9

8:30 am: Nancy Mancini -- Fr. Frank

Wed. - Jan. 10

8:30am: Gloria Adams (Living) - Patricia & Family

Thurs. - Jan. 11

8:30 am: Lucy Sica (Anniversary) --- Family

Fri. - Jan. 12

8:30 am: Pauline Albano --- Fr. Frank

Sat. - January 13 - St. Hilary

8:30 am: 1. Jazmin Atehortua -- Monica & Daniel

2. Jean Robert Louis (Living) -- Friend

3. Yasuyo Kato --- Misuzu Kato

5:00 pm: Misa Pro Populo

Sun. - January 14

8:30 am: Rev. Karlheinz Muller OFM, Cap.

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

2. Samantha Hope Ventura -- Theresa & Ron

3. Emma Feliciano --- Daughter

12:30 pm: Theresa, James & Jimmy --- Daughters

*The Gifts of Bread and Wine and Altar Candles
are offered this week*

In Loving Memory of

~ Sister Kathryn P. Clark ~

requested by Maria

+ 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 - January 7, 2018

- Religious Education - S

MONDAY- January 8, 2018

- Bible Study - 7:30 pm - MC
- Alcoholics Anonymous (Beginners Mts.) 7-8 pm - SC
- Alcoholics Anonymous (Open Mtg.) 8:30 - 9:30 pm-SC

TUESDAY - January 9

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY - January 10

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

THURSDAY - January 11

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

SUNDAY - January 14

- NO Religious Education * resumes Sunday, January 21

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AT AMERICAN MARTYRS

- Rectory Office Closed Monday, January 15 in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Ash Wednesday, February 14

2018 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. 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.

Sunday Collections

Last Weekend - December 31, 2017

My Weekly Offering for the Support of my Church-- \$5,664
Solemnity of Mary - (Jan. 1) - \$470.

This Weekend - January 7, 2018

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

Next Weekend - January 14, 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, Marge Aquino, Josephine Attard, Elsa 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, 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 Piazza, Estella Palucious, Walter Panas, Rosemary Parente, Sal Piazza, Lynn Pickett, Peg Pinto, Guillermo Ramirez, Maria Ramirez, Alexander Ramos, Gloria Riccioppi, Lily & Mike Rivera, Patrice Rohde, Arlene Scherne, Frank Schusteritsch, Lee Servillo, Adam Singer, George Stellakis, Mary Sweeney, Suzanne Szalkiewicz, Lorraine Thomas, Rosemarie Tricarico, 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 until the end of January. These items will be delivered to local shelters to warm needy families.



Maggie's Little Theater

Middle Village announces **auditions** for the role of **Don Quixote in Man of La Mancha**. This audition is for this role specifically. The rest of the cast will be auditioned at a later date. Auditions will be held on **Sunday, January 7th from 2pm to 7pm in St. Margaret Parish Hall, 66-05 79th Place**. Audition requirements listed on our web site or by calling **917-579-5389**. Performances are on weekends beginning June 30th for 3 weeks. Rehearsals begin in April. For information, visit www.maggieslittletheater.org or email maggieslittletheater@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

Every year when we celebrate Christmas we are reminded of the great hope which God has bestowed upon mankind through His Son, Jesus Christ. The birth of Jesus, the Incarnate Word of God, allows us to realize that God is truly with us. This is the meaning of "Emmanuel", God with us, and we are truly blessed to be called to follow Him. By following Him we are led to salvation for He is the light in the darkness of our world, a light which the darkness cannot overcome.

Indeed, the greatest gift which anyone can receive on Christmas is the gift which God Himself has given us, the gift of His Son. It is a gift which is meant to be shared for only by sharing it can it increase in us. Whatever else we may give or receive during this Christmas Season, it surely pales in comparison with this wonderful gift of God. May you and your families have a most Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

~ Fr. Frank



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:

AMReligionClass.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.

The question put to us simply by the Infant's presence is:

Do I allow God to love me?

~ Pope Francis

2017 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

~ *Live in Faith Give in Love* ~

Annual Appeal Goal for 2017:	\$61,392.
Amount Pledged:	\$104,360.
Amount Received:	\$101,269.
Donors:	290

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*

+ PURGATORIAL SOCIETY +

New Members Enrolled for January 2018

**Frank & Anna Smaldino
Smaldino & Granieri Families**

**John J. Sosna Hedwig D. Sosna
Gabriella Lossasso Pilar Habacon
Lorenzo Habacon Corazon Habacon
Virginia & Joseph Laraia**

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.

CATHOLIC MEDLEY

We will be resuming our Catholic Medley Adult Faith Formation program on January 29, at 7:30 pm in the Fr. Murray Center.

We will be discussing the **Holy Eucharist** using *Bishop Robert Barron's Word on Fire* series video as our starting point. Please join us!



REFLECTION

Today is the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. For centuries we as Catholics celebrated this Feast on Jan. 6, but the decision was made a number of years ago (at least in the United States) to celebrate the Epiphany on the Sunday which falls between Jan. 2 and Jan. 8.



“Epiphany” means “manifestation.” It is on this day that Jesus Christ, the Messiah, is revealed as the light of all nations. Officially Christmas is not over. In fact, the recommendation of the Church is that on this day those who display a crèche, a nativity or manger scene, should replace the shepherd and sheep with the Magi and their likely animals on which they traveled as well as their gifts. However, that is all secondary to the real meaning of this day.

At Christmas the Messiah Jesus was revealed to the shepherds, who were Jewish. But on this day the Lord is revealed to all nations and to the Gentiles (represented by the Magi). We are all familiar with the star the Magi followed, but we need to understand all that is happening and what it means. This all represents the Light of Christ, a Light which today we honor and commemorate. We are called to be the Light of Christ right now to those around us and those with whom we come in contact. That way we can be the disciples Christ wants us to be.

The poet William Cullen Bryant captures the significance of the star the Magi followed very well when he wrote, “O Father, may that Holy Star, Grow every year more bright, And send its glorious beams afar, To fill the world with light.”

~ thecatholicsteward.com

**We saw His star at its rising
and have come to do Him
homage.**



Please do not bring food or drinks into Church.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH-CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Amount Pledged: \$1,240,000.

Total Paid on Pledges: \$728,135.

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

Number of Parishioners participating: 311

I am very excited to tell you that work on the Church roof and pointing has been completed.



We are now working on replacing the air-conditioning system in the Church and the Sullivan Center. The current system is over 30 years old and no longer functioning properly. ***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.

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.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

The National Safety Council will present its **Defensive Driving Course** for Insurance and Point Reduction at **American Martyrs on Saturday, February 17, 2018 in the Fr. Murray Center from 9 am to 3:30 pm.** To register or for more information, please call **Marty at: 631-360-9720.**



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Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

