



**“Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David!  
My daughter is tormented by a demon.”**

Matthew 15:22

## American Martyrs

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 16 2020

### Parish Clergy

Rev. Peter J. Rayder, Administrator

Rev. James W. King

Rev. Msgr. John F. Keppler, Pastor

Emeritus

Deacon Stanley Galazin

Sunday Assistants

Rev. Msgr. John J. Bracken

Rev. George Cowan

Rev. Emmanuel Narthey

### Parish Staff

Ms. Patricia Adams, Business Manager

Mrs. Theresa Asche, Religious Education

Ms. Cynthia Macias, Youth Minister

Mr. Jose Espindola, Maintenance

### Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil 5pm

Sunday 8:30am - 10:30am - 12:30 pm

### Daily Mass

8:30am Monday - Saturday

(Main Church Until Further Notice)

Holy Days 8:30am - 12 Noon - 7:30pm

American Martyrs RC Church

79-43 Bell Blvd.

Oakland Gardens, NY 11364

(718) 464 - 4582

Religious Education Office

(718) 464 - 6411



## A LITTLE BACKGROUND INTO AMERICAN MARTYRS CHURCH: Week III



“Spin me right round, like a record, baby!” A round church like American Martyrs is unique and has earned awards for its design, but why is it round in the first place? The roundness is to promote unity. Think of a straight, lineal church, where if you sit in the last pew, it can sometimes feel like you’re a mile from the altar. Here at American Martyrs, you are never more than 10 pews away! It also helps to center focus on the celebration of the Mass, as no matter where you sit in our church, you are always facing the sanctuary!

But there is an even more important reason for the church being round: it represents the resurrection of Jesus Christ. If you take a look in Jerusalem, at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (built by Constantine the Great) it was built in the round as it was believed to have been built over where Jesus had died and resurrected 3 days later. Many churches after, including American Martyrs, were designed around this concept. Talk about uplifting design!

In my next weeks installment: It’s all about windows! The church windows, not Microsoft!

### Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time A Clever Woman of Faith

The first reading reminds us that even though the Jews are God’s chosen people, foreigners who love the Lord will be accepted into God’s house. So why is Jesus being so difficult with the Canaanite woman?

At first he seems to be putting her off. He doesn’t answer her, but tells the disciples that he came only for lost sheep of Israel, adding the remark about food going to the dogs. He does this not to discourage her, but to draw a response of faith. He wants to see how persistent she is in her request.

We can tell ourselves that we are people of faith, but how easily are we discouraged? Do we think God has forgotten us when we experience trouble? Sometimes it is our childish belief that everything has to go our way. We may not be selfish about it; we may be discouraged by the suffering of someone we love. The woman’s clever reply to Jesus reminds us that she trusted in Jesus’ power and willingness to help.

Jesus was also teaching his disciples that faith is more important than nationality. They were all Jews and wanted Jesus to send the Canaanite woman away. Long after Jesus’ resurrection, the church struggled with the question of non- Jewish believers. Today, we may be doing the same thing in reverse. Some people think that only Catholics can be saved and that there is no hope for Protestants, much less for Jews. God’s covenant with the chosen people cannot be rescinded. Paul says that the rejection of Jesus by Jewish leaders led to salvation for the rest of the world. But though some rejected Jesus, God never rejected the Jews.

Finally, Jesus responded to her persistence. Like the woman who wouldn’t go away, we can keep praying till we get an answer to our prayer. While sometimes our request is granted, sometimes God has a good reason to delay or even say no. The more time we spend in prayer, the more likely we are to listen to God’s answer. Prayer can help us come to the peaceful acceptance that God only does what is best for us. *Tom Schmidt, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.*

Dear Faithful People of God, when the Covid-19 pandemic hit our city, and our churches were closed for public Masses, most of the pastors were worried that this pandemic would place a real financial burden on their parishes. Since we rely solely on the generosity of our parishioners mostly through their Sunday donations the future was a bit uncertain.

Throughout these past few months your generosity has been overwhelming, both through your weekly donations as well as your participation in the ACA. Your generosity is a true testament to your love for your parish of American Martyrs.

Because we have surpassed our goal, any future donations will come directly to American Martyrs. The parish is to use that ACA money to place outdoor lighting around the outside of American Martyrs Church and to keep our church grounds shining brightly night. The plan also includes spotlights to illuminate the cross on the spire. I want the Oakland Gardens and American Martyrs Communities to see that we are here, alive as the Church of God. Thank you again for answering the call and participating so generously to the ACA, and know well it is never too late to make a pledge if you have yet to made one.

*Without doubt “We are the Church”!  
In my prayers... ..Fr. Peter J. Rayder.*

### New York Blood Center Blood Drives Are Back!!

  
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Visit their website: [www.nybloodcenter.org](http://www.nybloodcenter.org)

### August 9, 2020 Collection

Offering: August 9, 2020	\$ 2,806.
E-Giving: August 9, 2020	\$1,489.
Total for August 9, 2020	\$4,295.
**Weekly of August 8, 2019	\$4,762.
**Weekly E-Giving August 2019	\$ 288.
**Total for August 2019:	\$5,050.

Thank you so much for your continued support of American Martyrs Church.

## ***Bit's and Pieces from Mike and Mike: "Building A House's Deck... ..One Nail at a Time!"***

Dear Summer People of God, here is a 'Summer Road Trip' experience for the books... ..I called it the "Flomax express."

### ***A Road Trip of Four Priests.***

Four priests carpooling on the way to a golf outing. At 56 years old, I was the youngest in the car. The others were aged 60, 74, and 75.

Every twenty miles we had to stop. We planned our route around strategic pit stops, seeking the relief that plumbing can offer. That's what happens to men of a certain age.

Our car was a microcosm of American Catholic priests. We are old. Nationwide the median age of diocesan priests is about 64. Two of us were retired. Nationwide, about one third of the diocesan clergy are already retired. About one half are within a decade of retirement.

Retirement is a big concern. Our pension and social security will probably total just over \$2,000 a month. It will be hard to live outside of a rectory on that money. None of us have saved much.

There were no monsignors in our car. We joked that it was a monsignor free zone. All of four of us have spent our priesthoods laboring in the great Diocese of Brooklyn, Our assignments are not the sort of posts where they typically make you a monsignor. One of the retired priests said monsignors carry the title L.L.A.B.B.A.; "Looks like a bishop, but ain't."

There was absolutely no pretense in our conversation. It was the frank talk of friends. We have known one another for years. We know one another's faults and failings, sorrows and successes. We have shared a lot of the same experiences and know many of the same people. When four such people talk, it is honest.

We were pastors, not theologians. So our talk was about our people and their problems, not books or theories. Yet we are still interested in reading. We just wish we had more time.

I did not detect much anger in our talk, but there was some real discouragement. Pastoral life has made us realists. We know that people of good intentions and sincere convictions sometimes fail. We know that people do not always color between the lines. Pastoring is not so much about enforcing rules as it is about building relationships with people and with God.

People come into the Church; fall away from the Church; and come back to the Church. We keep the door open and the light on. Like any group of pastors we talked about buildings and business. A big part of the lives of pastors is running the temporal life of the parish. But that is not the measure of our success.

All of us were Vatican II priests. For us the Council was a defining moment in our faith lives. We have a positive view of culture and creation, but we know it is fallen. We see the changes of the last half century as basically good. We see ourselves in dialogue with culture, not at war with it.

We also have a healthy awareness of the failings and sins of priests and bishops. We have lived through the last decade of scandal. It has left scars. We know our sins.

One other thing; we are all tired. Sometimes we have three or four masses, a few baptisms and a wake or two on a Sunday.. Priests who are still working are working harder than ever. There are fewer of us and more of the faithful.

Next year, if we are all still around, I hope we car pool again. That ride was the highlight of my evening. Four friends, on a road trip through life. But next time we should plan a few more pit stops. After all, it is the "Flomax express."

***The Priesthood of Jesus Christ... ..The Greatest Road Trip!  
Enjoy the Summer and See You in Church... ..Fr. Peter***

**AMERICAN MARTYRS WEB ADDRESS  
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### **American Martyrs 2020 Mass Book Intentions**

There are still many Mass Intentions open for 2020. 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 contact the Rectory 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.



## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday August 15

5:00 pm: Peter P. Shanahan (*Family*)

Sunday, August 16

8:30 am: Joseph Kinney (*AM Parish*)

10:30 am: Rev. David Smith (*Barbara & Jack*)

Jack Bills (*Ann Marie Bills*)

Philomena Zafferese (*Family*)

12:30 pm: Misa Pro Populo

Monday, August 17

8:30 am: Charles Kavaliauskas (*Family*)

Tuesday, August 18

8:30 am: Jamie Dungca (*Madrazo Family*)

Wednesday, August 19 - St. John Eudes

8:30 am: Anna Yandoli (*Daughter*)

+ Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help +  
(After Mass)

Thursday, August 20 - St. Bernard

8:30 am: Joseph Ossanna (*AM Ushers*)

Friday, August 21 - St. Pius X

8:30 am: David A. Zack (*Ruth Zack*)

Saturday, August 22 - The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin

8:30 am: Milan Dimitrijevic -- (*Bascetta Family*)

5:00 pm: Larry Wolf (*John O'Rourke*)

*The Gifts of Bread & Wine are offered:  
~ In Loving Memory of Joe Kinney ~*

### **REMEMBER THE DECEASED OF AMERICAN MARTYRS, ESPECIALLY JOE KINNEY AND PATROCINIA APOSTADERO ESGUERRA**

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

#### ***Our Sick, Homebound and Hospitalized:***

Michael Arriaga, Barbagallo Family, Roberto Barrientos, Iride Bubek, Rose and Jessie Carlone, Bill Carrar, Frank Carroll, Chang Family, Diana Ferrante, Michael Gorry, Jack Kopcinski, Daniel Limberg, Brian Mastrorocco, Steve McCabe, Ed Miles, Mary Modica, Frank Mollo, Danny Montchal, Frank Pagano, John Pinto, Lorraine Rensch, Amelia Reyes, John Sheridan, Jr., Sheila Still, Arlene Scherne, Marie Scuderi, Lee Servillo, Paulette Wilson and Genevieve Zenka.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Daily Mass celebrated in the Rectory Chapel  
Monday - Saturday at 8:30 am.

Sunday- August 16

*Masses: 8:30 am; 10:30 am; & 12:30 pm*

*Masks and social distancing are mandatory*

Monday - August 17

*NO Alcoholics Anonymous Beginners mtg.*

*NO Alcoholics Anonymous (Open mtg.)*

TUESDAY - August 18

*NO BINGO*

WEDNESDAY- August 19

*Rectory Office Closed*

*NO Alcoholics Anonymous*

THURSDAY - August 20

*NO Leisure Club*

SAT.—August 22

4pm Confessions

*5 pm Mass celebrated in Church*

*Masks and social distancing are mandatory*

### Welcome Back Home

We had our sixth full week of Mass this past week and while we are still under NYS rules and guidelines, my observation is *that can not let our guard down.* We need to keep ourselves on our toes in regards to 'Indoor' Social Distancing respectfully call each other out if need be.

Safety first! I know You do not want to be the cause of someone receiving Corvid-19, especially one whose health may be compromised! Safety mingled with Respect!

Our Safety Practice continues here at American Martyrs. Seating is clearly marked out on every pew, please sit in those seats.

### Face Masks Must Be Worn

Communion will be distributed at each Mass at the three stations like we always do here at American Martyrs. Please continue to approach the priest, deacon or Extra Ordinary Minister wearing your face mask and remaining 6 feet apart on the Communion line.

### Please Form Only One Communion Line At Each Station

For the health safety of the ministers, Holy Communion will be distributed in your hand only at the present time, (Please understand this local decision is for the safety of our deacon and priests health. **We will continue to sanitize American Martyrs after every Mass.**

We are following the laws that NYS has put in place. Remember, if we do not follow the rules, we may again be forced to close our Church. Please follow the Common Sense approach to *Social Distancing* and respect that there among us those who truly can not afford to catch the virus...

...PLEASE BE SAFE



### SUMMER ATTIRE

American Martyrs is air conditioned for your comfort. With summer months upon us, we tend toward a more relaxed way of life as well as dress. Please be conscious of proper attire for church.

### Summer Rectory Hours

9am – 4pm (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday)

9:00 am – 12:00 Noon on Friday

*Rectory Will Be Closed  
Wednesdays and Saturday During Summer*

Evening Hours by Appointment Only

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - REGISTRATION

While parish buildings are closed, Religious Education registration for September are taking place online.

Please visit: [amreligionclass.weebly.com](http://amreligionclass.weebly.com) to print an application.

Please send the completed form back to the Rectory.

*Floater and Smitty*  
*"We are talking but not making sense"*  
*American Martyrs in House Comedians*

**Floater:** My math book recently saw a psychiatrist -- it kept complaining that it had too many problems.

**Smitty:** If there is an equal and opposite reaction, then wouldn't all the people who hit the sack go to sleep with black eyes?

**Floater:** I would gladly trade in my "Caller I.D." for a "Caller I.Q."

**Smitty:** I'd give my right arm to be ambidextrous.

**Floater:** Dig where the gold is, unless you need the exercise.

**Smitty:** For more peace and quiet, how about a phoneless cord?

**Floater:** Can vegetarians eat animal crackers?

**Smitty:** A shut mouth gathers no foot.

**Floater:** Teamwork is essential; it allows you to blame someone else.

**Smitty:** Creativity is no substitute for knowing what you're doing.

### GENERATIONS OF FAITH DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN & AMERICAN MARTYRS' CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

As of July 1, 2020

Amount Pledged: \$1,227,929.

Total Paid on Pledges: \$1,024,400.

Amount returned to American Martyrs: \$588,687.

Number of Parishioners participating: 317

Thank you for your faithfulness in fulfilling your pledges.



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### 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.

#### 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 -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](http://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

#### 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.

#### National Suicide Prevention

Help line: -1-800-273-8255

#### Healing After Abortion:

Sisters of Life at: 866-575-0075  
[Hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org](mailto:Hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org).

### PRAYING THE ROSARY

During this time of uncertainty and anxiety, I encourage you to pray the Rosary daily. This wonderful devotion has given comfort and strength to Catholics throughout the centuries. The intercession of Our Lady is indeed powerful and most needed at this time.

### GIL BELONGS !!!!

Call the Baseball Hall of Fame and ask for  
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Tell her, Brooklyn's Best "Gil Hodges"  
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### KNOW THE MASS, ONE WORD AT A TIME

## Bless



After the sneeze, we say a quick "God bless you!" Blessing, however, is far more than an antidote to sneezing. In the Mass, blessing is a wide road of grace that runs in two directions— from us to God, and from God to us. We bless and praise God for his gifts to us. Blessed be

God forever. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you. We must bless God and recognize his gifts. We would be completely ungrateful if we didn't.

In the Mass, we also ask God to bless us and our offerings, to let his favor and his power fall upon what we have brought to him and upon our very selves. Bless these gifts, these offerings, these holy and unblemished sacrifices. May all of us, who receive the most holy Body and Blood of your Son, be filled with every grace and heavenly blessing. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Never more than when we are at Mass do we acknowledge that we live in God's blessing and, at the same time, ask that the blessing continue to be poured upon us.

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