

MASSES FOR THE WEEKSATURDAY - December 10, 2016

5:00 pm: Anna Smaldino --- Gregg &amp; Mary Ann

SUN. Dec. 11, 2016 - Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 am: Misa Pro Populo

10:30 am: 1. Paul Canestro -- Fr. Frank

2. Msgr. Joseph Funaro --- Fr. Frank

3. Fr. Dan Weiscopf --- Fr. Frank

12:30 pm: Arthur Amos --- Gerri Amos

Mon. - December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:30 am: Jeanne Dugue --- Daughter, De Lourde

Tues. Dec. 13 - St. Lucy

8:30 am: Vito Merola --- Patricia Merola

Wed. - Dec. 14 - St. John of the Cross

8:30 am: Al Zenka --- Gen Zenka

Thurs. December 15

8:30 am: John Sosna --- Donna &amp; Steve

Fri. - Dec. 16

8:30 am: Angelina Marshall -- Brookhaven Lab.

Saturday - Dec. 17

9:00 am: 1. Paul Canestro --- Patricia Adams

2. Delia Rivera --- Rosalina Hernandez

3. Joy Monoeuse --- Dominic &amp; Ann Parascandolo

5:00 pm: Craig Schneider --- Mother

Sunday - Dec. 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 am: Cullen &amp; 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

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

*~ In Loving Memory of Josephine Sosna ~  
requested by Donna & Steve*

+ 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.

**Lord, come and save us.**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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

Sunday- December 11

- NO Religious Education
- Lessons & Carols - 1:45 pm -CH

MONDAY- December 12

- Rosary Society - Christmas Party - 1 pm - SC
- 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 - Dec. 13

- 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. 14

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

THURSDAY - Dec. 15

- NO Leisure Club

SUNDAY- December 18

- Religious Education - SC

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AT AMERICAN MARTYRS

- Mon. Dec. 19 - Advent Reconciliation - 4-8 pm -CH
- Thurs. Dec 22 - K of C -- 7:45 pm --MC

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

5 pm &amp; 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 &amp; 10:30 am 12:30 pm



**Sunday Collections**

**Last Weekend --December 4, 2016**

My Weekly Offering for the Support of my Church- \$7,693.  
My Christmas Flower Offering - \$2,487.

**This Weekend - December 11, 2016**

My Weekly Offering for the Support of my Church.  
Religious Retirement Fund - to support our aging religious Sisters, Brothers & Priests in our Diocese.

**Next Weekend - December 18, 2016**

My Weekly Offering for the Support of my Church.  
My Christmas Gift to 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 our website: [Americanmartyrsbayside.com](http://Americanmartyrsbayside.com) and click on the big **Parish Giving red button** on the right and follow the instructions.

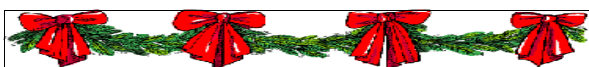
**Please remember the Roman Catholic Church of American Martyrs in your will and estate planning.**

**Please Pray for our Sick, Homebound and Hospitalized:**

Paula Abel, 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.**



Our Christmas Fair 50/50 Raffle tickets are being sold after all Masses. The raffle drawing will be held on **Sunday, December 11** after the 12:30 Mass. Raffle tickets are only **\$10**.



**+ REMEMBER THE DECEASED +**

**Rev. Msgr. George M. Schuster**

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're just starting to rehearse for the Advent/Christmas Season. It's the perfect time to join. 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.


**LESSONS & CAROLS**



Take a break from your hectic holiday schedule and join us for **Lessons & Carols, Sunday, December 11, at 1:45 pm**, featuring The American Martyrs Adult & Youth Choirs, directed by Mr. Patrick White.

What does God want from us? It is no mystery. **Rejoice in Him, pray always and give thanks.** This Christmas, give God not merely some of your time and treasure but a life of prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

**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](http://www.queensdeanery5.org)  
 [Facebook.com/QueensDeanery5](https://www.facebook.com/QueensDeanery5)



**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.

**ROSARY SOCIETY**

**Our Christmas Party will be held Monday, Dec. 12 at 1 pm in the Sullivan Center.** Join us for light refreshments, coffee & cake. We will have a mini Chinese Auction.



All Ladies are welcome to join us!

**CHRISTMAS FAIR 2016**

The American Martyrs Christmas Fair held on Dec. 3rd and 4th once again was a tremendous success! As always, I am deeply grateful to all those who volunteered their time to make this fundraiser such a successful and enjoyable time. Thank you for all you do for American Martyrs Church.



~ Fr. Frank

**Advent is celebrated not only by thanking God for Christ's first coming as a baby, but also for His presence among us today through the Holy Spirit, and in anticipation of His final coming at the end of time.**



**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.



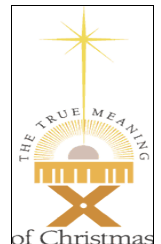
**2017 Mass Book Intentions**

**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](mailto: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](http://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](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

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 11/21/16): \$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](http://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](http://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

Today, the Third Sunday of Advent, we celebrate *Gaudete* Sunday. *Gaudete* means "rejoice." That secondary name for today comes from the Introit that in the traditional Latin Mass comes from Philippians 4: 4-5: Gaudete in Domino semper ("Rejoice in the Lord always.").

Although Advent is a season of penitence and preparation, today is always set aside by the Church to relax and rejoice in the Lord. We have passed the midpoint of Advent, and our traditions relax a bit. Rather than the purple vestments of penitence, the priest can wear rose-colored vestments, and on our Advent wreaths we light a rose-colored candle rather than a purple one.

All of our readings today deal with Christian joy. This may seem not in keeping with the overall mood encouraged for Advent, but it is most definitely in keeping with what we need to feel, and it is definitely appropriate for those who embrace stewardship as a way of life.

Stewardship is, of course, based upon an "attitude of gratitude" and today is a day to focus on the joy that results from that gratitude. Father Henri Nouwen was a well known Catholic priest, professor, writer, and theologian. In describing the significance of this particular day, Father Nouwen clarified the difference between joy and happiness. He said, "While happiness is dependent upon external conditions, joy is the experience of knowing that we are unconditionally loved by God and nothing — not sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death — can take that love away. Joy can be present in the midst of sadness."

This "joy" that is reflected in lives of stewardship was also emphasized by Pope Francis, who said in his homily for Gaudete Sunday in 2014, "Today is a day of joy. Rather than fretting about all we have not done or accomplished to prepare for Christmas during Advent, we need to think of all the good things God, and life, has given us."

-thecatholicsteward.com