

MASSES FOR THE WEEKSATURDAY - December 15

5:00 pm: Misa Pro Populo

SUNDAY-December 16 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:30 am: Joseph A. Borst --- E.O.

10:30 am: 1. Theresa Kavaliauskas --- Family

2. Linda Walsh (Living) --- Family

3. David Zack (Living) --- Family

12:30 pm: Alice Tahaney --- Mary Rose Bosko

Mon. - December 17

8:30 am: Tereza Santo --- Rachael Santos

4 pm to 8 pm: Reconciliation -- Church

Tues. - Dec. 18

8:30 am: Marianne Seufert --- Misuzu Kato

Wed. - Dec. 19

8:30am: Theresa Kavaliauskas --- Family
 After the 8:30 am Mass - Novena to Our Lady of
 Perpetual Help.

Thurs. - December 20

8:30 am: Patrick J. Kearney, Sr. (1st Ann.) - Family

Fri. - December 21 - St. Peter Canisius

8:30 am: Rita Boyle --- Boyle Family

Saturday - December 22

8:30 am: 1. Joseph R. Tricarico --- Ro Tricarico

2. Charles Kavaliauskas (Healing) -- Family

3. Robert Kavaliauskas (Healing) --- Family

5:00 pm: Eleanor Reilly --- E. O.

Sunday-Dec. 23 - 4th Sunday of Advent

8:30 am: Misa Pro Populo

10:30 am:

1. Agnes & Michael Goydas- Barbara & Jack Goydas

2. Mr. & Mrs. Charles Peirano --- Patricia

3. Robert Houlihan --- Faith & John

12:30 pm: Santa & Domenica Mascioli - Joann & Rocco

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

~ In Loving Memory of ~
Patrick J. Kearney, Sr.

Requested by his Family

Please join us on Sunday, December 23rd at the
 10:30 am Mass, in welcoming our celebrant,
 Bishop Nicolas DiMarzio on his Pastoral visit.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

SUNDAY - December 16

- Rel. Ed. -- SC

MONDAY - Dec. 17

- **4 pm to 8 pm: Reconciliation -- Church**
- Alcoholics Anonymous (Beginners Mts.) 7-8 pm - SC
- Alcoholics Anonymous (Open Mtg.) 8:30 - 9:30 pm-SC
- NO AA - Mon. Dec. 24

TUESDAY - Dec. 18

- **BINGO - 7:30 pm --SC**
Total Prizes: \$3,000. Early Bird 7:15 pm.
- **NO BINGO - Tuesday, January 1st**
***** **HANDICAP ACCESS** *****
Please join us! We are grateful for all of our volunteers.

WED. - Dec. 19

- Alcoholics Anonymous - big book - 7 pm - SC
- Alcoholics Anonymous - C - 8:30 pm - SC
- NO AA - Mon. Dec. 24

THURS. - Dec. 20

- Leisure Club --11 am - 3 pm -- SC

SUNDAY - Dec. 23 -4th Sunday of Advent

- NO Religious Ed.
- Bishop DiMarzio celebrating the 10:30 am Mass

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AT AMERICAN MARTYRS

- **Mon. Dec. 17- Advent Reconciliation**
- **4 pm - 8 pm - CH**
- **Tues. Dec. 25 - Rectory Office Closed**
- **Sat. Dec. 29 - CWV - Clothing donation - 11 am**
- **Sat. Dec. 29 CWV-SC- 9 am after 8:30 am Mass**
- **NO Bingo- Tues. January 1, 2019**
- **Rectory Office Closed Tues. January 1, 2019**

God loves us very much and wants the best for us.
 What habits of thought, word, and deed do you think
 God would really like to free you from?

God of love, transform in us what most keeps us, and
 those who love us, from singing songs of rejoicing with
 You this Christmas. ~ Amen

Sunday Collections

Last Weekend - December 9, 2018

Weekly Offering for the Support of my Church. - \$6,587.
Religious Retirement Fund - \$ 1,438.

This Weekend - December 16, 2018

Weekly Offering for the Support of my Church.
My Christmas Gift to my Church.

Next Weekend - December 23, 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, Michael Gorry, Wilson Grullon, Ray Hippeli, Herman Hiris, Daniel Hoffner, William Krug, Cathy Losito, Ralph Marazzo, Aida Maravilla, Brian Mastrorocco, 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

The 2019 Mass 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. 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.

CWV - CLOTHING DRIVE - Sat. Dec. 29 -11am

The Catholic War Veterans will be holding a Clothing Drive on **Saturday, Dec. 29 at 11 am** in the Sullivan Center. Please bring your gently used clothing (for Men, Women and Children) to the SC at 11 am. A Veteran will be there to accept your donation. We cannot accept clothing before that date. Thank you.



The Winner of our Christmas 50/50 was ticket number: 426 ~ Ilene & Yvette. The prize was \$1,500. Thanks for playing!

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

REFLECTION



We have arrived at Gaudete Sunday (*Gaudete* is the Latin word for “rejoice”) this Third Week of Advent, and the Scriptures take on a joyful tone as we continue our preparations for the feast of our Savior’s birth. Our Second Reading gives us cause for joy as St Paul reminds us, “The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all...” Then he gives us a prescription for maintaining this peace: “In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Paul’s instructions for obtaining peace come as an early Christmas gift. They remind us that we can and should go to God with all our needs and present them to Him *along with our thanks*. This guidance calls to mind a vital aspect of a stewardship way of life: gratitude to God in response to His great love and countless gifts to us. The Gospel passage, from Luke, shows us how to *live out* this thanks, making our lives a “Christmas gift” to Christ in joyful response to His love for us. When the crowds hear John the Baptist’s message that their Savior is coming, they ask him what they should do to prepare. He responds, “Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do the same.” He tells tax collectors to stop collecting more than is prescribed and soldiers, to be satisfied with their wages. In other words, he tells them to be good and generous stewards of all God’s gifts to them! As the great feast of Christmas draws near, let us rejoice in Christ’s extravagant love. Let’s avail ourselves of the peace He longs to give us. And let’s look carefully at our lives to make sure we are indeed making of them a gift fitting for Him.

~thecatholicsteward.com

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2018

Monday - December 24, 2018

5 pm & Midnight Mass - Christmas Eve

Tuesday - December 25, 2018 - Christmas Day

8:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm

Monday - December 31, 2018

5 pm Vigil Mass

Tuesday - January 1, 2019 - Solemnity of Mary

8:30 am & 10:30 am

Dear Parishioners,

Please do not bring food or drinks into Church. Please do not chew gum in Church, and please wear proper Sunday attire in reverence of the Holy Eucharist.
~ Fr. Frank

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 aid our suffering Christian sisters and brothers in the Middle East the Father John J. Murray Knights of Columbus Council will be selling 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.



ADVENT DAY OF RECOLLECTION - Mon- 12/17

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 during Advent, Monday, December 17, 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 American Martyrs on Monday, December 17.

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.

+ 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

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.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor

***** 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: \$107,912.
Amount Received: \$103,967.
Donors: 252

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.

