

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY - December 16

5:00 pm: Misa Pro Populo

SUNDAY December 17 -Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 am: Theresa Kavaliauskas --- Family

- 10:30 am: 1. Tereza Santos --- Family
 2. Margot Cigliano --- Suzanne Malench
 3. Joseph O'Rourke --- Marie, Joey & John

12:30 pm: Anthony Roman --- Family

Mon. - Dec. 18

8:30 am: Judith Mediate ---Joyce Sgambati

Tues. - Dec. 19

8:30 am: Samantha Hope Ventura --- Columbiettes

Wed. - Dec. 20

8:30am: Nicola Seripierri --- Columbiettes

Thurs. Dec. 21 - St. Peter Canisius

8:30 am: Rita Boyle --- Regina

Fri. - Dec. 22

8:30 am: Sister Winifred McKevitt -- Susan & Robert

Sat. - December 23 - St. John of Kanty

- 8:30 am: 1. Theresa Kavaliauskas --- Family
 2. Jack Antolini --- Mother & Brother
 3. Bob Sonneman --- Friends

5:00 pm: Mascioli Family ---- Anita Mascoli

Sun. - Dec. 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 am: Misa Pro Populo

10:30 am:

1. Agostino & Rosa Mascioli -- DiLucci Family
 2. Sadie Pagano --- Patricia & Family
 3. Anna & Ludwig Muller --- Fr. Frank

12:30 pm: John F. (Jack) Bills --Ann Marie

*The Gifts of Bread and Wine are offered this week:
 ~ In Loving Memory of Corazon Habacon ~
 Requested by Olivia Habacon*

*The Altar Candles are offered this week:
 ~ In Loving Memory of John F. (Jack) Bills ~
 Requested by Ann Marie*

+ **REMEMBER THE DECEASED** +
 Maria Markou

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 - December 17

- Religious Education - SC

MONDAY- December 18

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

TUESDAY - Dec. 19

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

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

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

Tues. Dec. 26 --- NO BINGO

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



WEDNESDAY - Dec. 20

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

THURSDAY - Dec. 21

- Leisure Club -- 11 am -- SC



SUNDAY - Dec. 24

- NO Religious Education

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AT AMERICAN MARTYRS

- **Tues. Dec. 26 --- NO BINGO**
- **Sat. Dec. 30 - CWV-SC after 8:30 am Mass**

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2017

Christmas Eve - December 24

5 pm & Midnight Mass

Monday - December 25, 2017 - Christmas Day

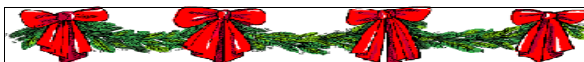
8:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm

Sunday - December 31, 2017

8:30 am, 10:30 am 12:30 pm (No 5 pm Mass)

Monday - January 1, 2018 - Solemnity of Mary

8:30 am Mass in Church



Sunday CollectionsLast Weekend - December 10, 2017

My Weekly Offering for the Support of my Church-- \$4,995.
Retirement Fund for the Elderly Religious- \$1,045.

This Weekend - December 17, 2017

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

Next Weekend - December 24, 2017

My Weekly Offering for the Support of my Church.
Mon. Dec. 25 - Christmas Offering for our Church.
Mon. Dec. 25 - Catholic Charities -- for the care of
Families in Brooklyn and Queens. Please give generously.

*******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 North,
Estella Palucious, Walter Panas, Rosemary Parente, Sal Piazza,
Lynn Pickett, Peg Pinto, Guillermo Ramirez, Maria Ramirez,
Alexander Ramos, Gloria Ricioppi, Lily & Mike Rivera, Patrice
Rohde, Arlene Scherne, Frank Schusteritsch, Lee Servillo, Adam
Singer, George Stellakis, Mary Sweeney, Suzanne Szalkiewicz,
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. These items will be delivered to local shelters to
warm needy families.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**"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 17th.
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**

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.

LORD, SHOW ME YOUR GLORY!

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.

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:

AMReligion Class.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 Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because He has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.**

2017 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

~ *Live in Faith Give in Love* ~

Annual Appeal Goal for 2017:	\$61,392.
Amount Pledged:	\$103,760.
Amount Received:	\$100,091.
Donors:	289

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*

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS at LINCOLN CENTER

Join **Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio** and

Futures in Education

in support of Catholic Schools at the

Spirit of Christmas Spectacular at Lincoln Center
starring -- **Daniel Rodriguez, Alfio, Charlie Romo**
and Broadway Stars

On Monday, December 18, at 8 pm. For tickets, contact: **Lincoln Center at 212-721-6500.**

My soul rejoices in my God!

+ 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.

ADVENT PRAYER

Do not forget this: The Lord never tires of forgiving! It is we who tire of asking forgiveness.



REFLECTION

A key facet of stewardship has always been personal witness. Today's readings deal in large part with the witness of John the Baptist.



St. John the Baptist, according to historians, was a few months older than Jesus. It is also generally accepted that he began preaching about six months before Jesus came to him to be baptized and to begin His ministry.

St. John the Baptist pointed to Jesus as the Messiah. John the Baptist, through personal witness, raised a great sense of expectancy and excitement, the kind of expectancy and excitement that we associate with this season of Advent. John tries to awaken in people a consciousness of sin, the importance of conversion and change, and the need to become more holy in God's eyes.

Those are the same goals we should have during this Advent season. The matter of witness is a serious and important thing. It establishes truth and a solid foundation for faith. When we personally witness, it means we make a commitment. We cannot be neutral when it comes to our faith. We are called to be disciples, witnesses of and for Christ. We best accomplish that by the ways we live our own lives and how we relate to and treat others.

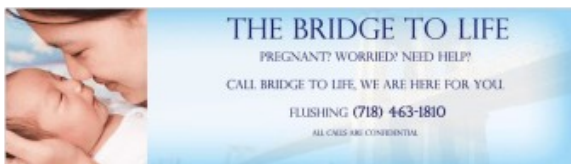
Jesus can meet our every need. Now is the time for us to accept that and to place our total trust in Him. We can do that best by making our own commitment to be His disciple, a witness to Who He is and what He means to us and all people.

~ thecatholicsteward.com

2018 Mass Book Intentions

The 2018 Mass Intention book is 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.**



Please do not bring food or drinks into Church.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH-CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Amount Pledged: \$1,240,000.

Total Paid on Pledges: \$707,236.

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

Number of Parishioners participating: 310

I am very excited to tell you that work on the Church roof and pointing is almost completed. We will do everything possible to minimize any inconvenience to our parishioners. ***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.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

God of my certainty and doubt, all too often my life seems to either be in personal disaster mode or it includes others who are facing the very worst of times. I need a better response than throwing up my hands in exasperation. In those moments, Lord, fill me with the certainty of your presence. Especially during Advent, as I prepare for the joy of welcoming your Son, Jesus, more fully into my heart this Christmas season, give me a nudge in your direction, a gentle reminder that you are near. Whether through the beauty of nature, the smile of a child or the pain of a homeless stranger let me hear you say, ***"Here I am. I've never left your side."***



~ Amen

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.



CHRISTMAS FAIR 50/50 WINNER

Congratulations to **Marie Caparelli** who was the winner of our **50/50 Christmas Fair Raffle.**

Thank you to all those who volunteered their time to make our Christmas Fair Fundraiser such a success!

