

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY - December 2

5:00 pm: Dragica Bosnjak -- Ana & Joe Fraioli

SUNDAY- December 3 -- First Sunday of Advent

8:30 am: Misa Pro Populo

10:30 am: Members of the Purgatorial Society

12:30 pm: Anthony Zafferese --- Family

Mon. - Dec. 4 - St. John Damascene

8:30 am: Gabriella Lozazzo --- Norma

Tues. - Dec. 5

8:30 am: Adele & Charles Pierano --Merola Familyl

Wed. - Dec. 6

8:30am: Raquel M. Manalo --- Vincent

Thurs. Dec. 7 - St. Ambrose

8:30 am: Hortensia, Antonio & Alfredo Torres - Vincent

Fri. - Dec. 8 - The Immaculate Conception

8:30 am: Henry Bandin -- Banden Family

12:00 pm: James & Petra Blando & Demetrio Santarina --- Family

7:30 pm: Misa Pro Populo

Sat. - December 9 - St. Juan Diego

8:30 am: 1. Randy Fanelli -- Fr. Frank

2. Henry Behrens --- Fr. Frank

3. Rev. Eugene McGovern -- Fr. Frank

5:00 pm: Craig Schneider --- Mom

Sun. - Dec. 10 -Second Sunday of Advent

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

10:30 am:

1. Charles & Concetta Pascucci - Marianne & John Pinto

2. Antoinette Graffeo -- Lorraine Borrero

3. Theresa Kavaliauskas --- Family

12:30 pm: Misa Pro Populo

The Gifts of Bread and Wine are offered this week:

~ In Thanksgiving ~

+ **REMEMBER THE DECEASED** +

Jack Antolini

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 3

- Religious Ed - S
- **CHRISTMAS FAIR - 9 am - 3 pm-SC**
- 50/50 Christmas Fair raffles are on sale
- CWV "Breakfast with Santa" tickets on Sale

MONDAY- December 4

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

TUESDAY - Dec. 5

- 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. 6

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

THURSDAY - Dec. 7

- Leisure Club -- 11 am -- SC
- Blue Knights - 8pm -- MC

SATURDAY - Dec. 9

- **Breakfast with Santa -- 10 am --SC**
- *****NO tickets sold at the door*****
- **Religious Ed - ALL grades --5 pm Mass**
- **Christmas Tree Lighting & Carols - American Martyrs Choir**

SUNDAY - Dec. 10

- **NO Religious Education -**

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AT AMERICAN MARTYRS

- **Sat. Dec. 9 - Breakfast with Santa-10 am- SC**
- **Sat. Dec. 9 - Christmas Tree Lighting & Carols - American Martyrs Choir - 5 pm Mass**
- **Sun. Dec. 10 - Christmas Fair raffle drawing- 1:30 pm**
- **Mon. Dec. 11 - Rosary Society - 1 pm -- SC**
- **Tues. Dec. 26 --- NO BINGO**

Sunday CollectionsNovember 19, 2017

My Weekly Offering for the Support of my Church - \$5,885.
Catholic Campaign for Human Development - \$874.

Last Weekend - November 26, 2017

My Weekly Offering for the Support of my Church--\$6,314

This Weekend - December 3, 2017

My Monthly Offering for the Support of my Church.
Christmas Flowers.

December 8 --- Immaculate Conception.

Next Weekend - December 10, 2017

My Weekly Offering for the Support of my Church.
Retirement Fund for the Elderly Religious.

*******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 & Vivian 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, Susan Hills, Ray Hippeli, Daniel Hoffner, John Horvat, Dr. Pamela Ierardi, Joseph Kinney, 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, 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.

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin MaryHoly Day of Obligation

Friday, December 9, Masses will be celebrated in Church at 8:30 am; 12 noon; and 7:30 pm.



*Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you;
Blessed are you among women.*

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 aide 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.

CRAFTY PEOPLE

Our next Crafty People meeting will be on **December 7, at 7:30 p.m., in Sullivan Center.** At this meeting, we will be making snowman swags. For this craft, you will need your glue gun and glue sticks (or white craft glue), scissors, a large white tube sock, needle and white thread, and four 3" styrofoam balls, as well as any holiday or winter embellishments you want your snowmen to flaunt. Also, at this meeting, we will have our annual Christmas celebration, so please bring a small dish of festive treats. Please let Annie know if you will be attending. As always, if anyone is interested in becoming a new Crafty Person, please e-mail amcraftypeople@ymail.com.



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- 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.

INFANCY NARRATIVES

Deacon Stan is conducting a class in the Murray Center on the Infancy Narratives which will run through Advent.

2017 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

~ *Live in Faith Give in Love* ~

Annual Appeal Goal for 2017: \$61,392.
Amount Pledged: \$101,535.
Amount Received: \$97,545.
Donors: 285

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.**

**Show us, Lord, your love;
and grant us your salvation.**

+ PURGATORIAL SOCIETY +

William Droure	Michael Vale
Kevin Dowling	George Maple
Vincent Joyce	Randy Fanelli
Consejo Polvorosa	Bernard Veluso
Rev. Dennis Rochforte	Eugene Flood

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

Loving God, help us to wait with patience and anticipation, to not be caught up in the rush of the season, but resting in your ever-present love. **Amen**

REFLECTION

This First Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year. All the readings during this period of waiting and anticipation concentrate on making us aware that it is time for us to awaken our lives as Christians. Jesus opens our Gospel Reading from St. Mark by saying **“Be watchful! Be alert!”** and closes it with an intense **“Watch!”**



For many Advent and Christmas are times of light, whether it is the light of the candles on Advent wreaths or the lights on a tree or the festive lights which decorate many houses and businesses. Jesus brings light into our worlds, but we must allow this light to permeate our own lives, to enter into the dark and sinful parts of our lives to illuminate and cleanse them.

This should be a time of renewed prayer and penance which truly prepares us to “watch” for the Lord, not just at Christmas but throughout our lives. There is a natural wonder among children at this time of year, but sometimes as we age, we lose that sense as if we are sleeping. It is time to awaken. Our minds may say “Let go” but our spirituality tells us to “Awaken.” We are filled with spiritual depths. It is time to seek them, find them, and awaken them. It is Advent, time for us to awaken and become aware of the gifts of love we have received from God and others. Or as Jesus reminds us: **“Watch.”**

~ thecatholicsteward.com

2018 Mass Book Intentions

The 2018 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.**

MOST REV. FRANCIS XAVIER FORD-100th Anniv.

There will be a Mass celebrating the **100th Anniversary of the Ordination of Most Rev. Francis Xavier Ford on Sunday, December 3 at 3 pm at the Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph (865 Pacific St., Brooklyn).** Our Diocese is working to advance the cause of canonization for Bishop Ford, a Brooklyn-born Priest and Missionary in China.

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.

ROSARY SOCIETY

Our Christmas Party will be held Monday, Dec. 11 at 1 pm in the Sullivan Center. Join us for light refreshments, coffee & cake. All Ladies are welcome to join us!



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 9, 10 am to 12 noon. Every child gets a gift! Plenty of photo-ops with Santa! Children and Adults \$5. Don't miss this ever popular event! So that we can plan properly, **NO** tickets will be sold at the door. **Tickets will be on sale after all Masses.**



FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

God of all my days, I often find that it's much easier for me to shut out the surprises You might have for me than it is to open myself up to the possibility of disappointment. I know this, and yet I ask for something else this Advent season. I ask for the confidence to awake each day and ask, “What do You have for me today, Lord?” You abandoned all and gave all so that I might live in joy. Now I need to believe that joy is possible for me. Be my surprise. Open me up to Your love. ~ Amen

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

