

MASSES FOR THE WEEKSATURDAY - December 24 20165:00 pm: **Misa Pro Populo**SUN. Dec. 25, 2016 - The Nativity of the Lord8:30 am: Vincent & Eleanor Calace & Susan (Calace)  
Scheno --- Victoria & Family10:30 am: 1. Joseph Clifford -- Wife & Daughter  
2. Anthony Zafferese --- John, Linda & Cindy  
3. Andrew Linsalata & Domenick Masone - Andrea

12:30 pm: Ruggieri Family --- Family

Mon. - December 26 - St. Stephen

8:30 am: Joseph &amp; Marie de Angelis --- Daughter

Tues. Dec. 27 - St. John

8:30 am: John Fitzsimmons --- Family

Wed. - Dec. 28 - The Holy Innocents

8:30 am: Agnes &amp; Victor Malench -- Family

Thurs. December 29 - St. Thomas Becket

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

Fri. - Dec. 30 - The Holy Family

8:30 am: Lucy &amp; Michael Sica --- Family

Saturday - December 31

9:00 am: The Intentions of the Catholic War Veterans

5:00 pm: John &amp; Jeanne Keating --- Family

Sunday - January 1, 2017 -Solemnity of Mary8:30 am: **World Peace**10:30 am: **Members of the Purgatorial Society**12:30 pm: **Misa Pro Populo***The Gifts of Bread and Wine and Altar Candles  
are offered this week:**~ In Loving Memory of the Ruggieri Family ~  
requested by the Family**The Sanctuary Lamp is offered this week:**~ In Loving Memory of Joan Shanahan Kearney ~  
requested by her Family*+ 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.

**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 25

- **Merry Christmas!**

MONDAY- December 26

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

TUESDAY - Dec. 27

- **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. 28

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

SATURDAY - DEC. 31 - Happy New Year!

- CWV meeting -SC after 9 am Mass -RC

SUNDAY- January 1, 2017

- No Religious Ed.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AT AMERICAN MARTYRS

- Mon. Jan. 2 -- Rectory Office Closed
- Tues. Jan 3 -- Bingo! - SC
- Fri. Jan 13 -- Boy Scout/Cub Scout mtg. 7:15 pm --SC

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 CollectionsLast Weekend --December 18, 2016

My Weekly Offering for the Support of my Church- \$6,433.  
My Christmas Gift to my Church - \$8,924.

This Weekend - December 25, 2016

My Weekly Offering for the Support of my Church.  
Christmas Offering for Our Church.  
Catholic Charities - special Christmas offering to help care for children & families of the Diocese.

Next Weekend - January 1, 2017

My Monthly Offering for the Support of my Church.  
Solemnity of Mary.

**\*\*\*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, Jackie Arriaga, 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.**

**Also, please pray for the men and women of our Armed Forces serving in the U.S. and abroad.**

+ REMEMBER THE DECEASED +

**Antoinette Graffeo  
Theresa Kavaliauskas**

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 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.

**"God is peace: let us ask Him to help us to be peacemakers each day, in our life, in our families, in our cities and nations, in the whole world. Let us allow ourselves to be moved by the goodness of God."**  
~ Pope Francis

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/Queens Deanery 5](https://www.facebook.com/QueensDeanery5)

**Merry Christmas! Rise! Shine!  
And give God the glory!**

+ PURGATORIAL SOCIETY +

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**Invite Jesus to your table today with the words of this Advent Prayer:**

**"Come, Lord Jesus. Be our guest.  
And let these gifts to us be blessed.**

~ Amen

  
GOOD WILL TO MEN

## CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Dear Parishioners,

As we celebrate the coming of “Emmanuel” (God with us), it is good for us to remember the blessings that we have received as well as the hardship so many must endure in today’s world. Today, particularly in the Middle East, there are many who suffer from violence, hunger, homelessness, religious and ethnic cleansing. Many are driven from the only homes they have ever known, hoping that some kind strangers will welcome them. These are the experiences of the Holy Family as well. As we reflect upon the infancy narratives of Jesus in both Matthew and Luke we can see that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph were not spared the indignities that so many of our fellow human beings endure. We are also reminded in scripture that by helping those who suffer so unjustly, we are helping Jesus himself, who identifies with those who suffer and are in need. (Matt. 25: 31-46).

Let us keep this season Holy by providing for those who are less fortunate than ourselves, however humble our means may be. In the end they are also “Emmanuel” for us, an opportunity to show God our gratitude by caring for the least of our brothers and sisters.

May you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

~ Rev. Frank L. Schwarz

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**A light will shine on us this day:  
The Lord is born for us.**

### GENERATIONS OF FAITH-CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

**Amount Pledged: \$1,270,665.**

**Total Paid on Pledges: \$491,485.**

**Amount returned to American Martyrs: \$195,822.**

**Number of Parishioners participating: 307**

**Work on the Church roof and pointing will commence in the Spring of 2017. Total projected cost of the project is \$725,000.**

**For those who have pledged, thank you for your faithfulness in fulfilling your pledges.**

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**Father Frank, Father Jean, Deacon Stan, our staff and volunteers extend to all our Parishioners and their families sincere wishes for a wonderful Christmas filled with Blessings, Peace and Joy.**

## 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.**

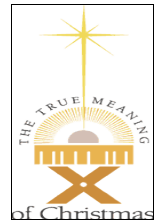
Please come to the Rectory or call to request a special Mass offering for your loved one. Also, you may wish to offer the gifts of Bread and Wine or the Altar Candles for one week.

**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.**

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**Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.**



## "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 aide 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 11/28/16): \$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*

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

It is Christmas! Our Gospel reading on this festive holy day is the opening words of the Gospel of John. St. John says, "The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him." That is why we celebrate today. Pope Francis opened his sermon on Christmas day last year by saying this: "Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace."

At Mass on Christmas Eve we hear, "I proclaim to you good news of great joy; today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord." It is this joy we need to feel, this joy we need to carry to others. Many have expressed the joy of today. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said this about Christmas: "Joy is the true gift of Christmas. We can communicate this joy simply: with a smile, a kind gesture, a little help, forgiveness. And the joy we give will certainly come back to us... Let us pray that this presence of the liberating joy of God shines forth in our lives."

The angel Gabriel greeted our Blessed Mother Mary with the Greek word *Kaire!* That means "Be joyful." God is near us today; He is so near that He became a child. Let us take that joy and share it with others; let us take that joy and change our lives and the lives of others. When we say "Merry Christmas" let us mean it with every fabric of our being.

[thecatholicsteward.com](http://thecatholicsteward.com)