

# American Martyrs

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
July 12, 2020

## Parish Clergy

Rev. Peter J. Rayder, Administrator  
Msgr. John F. Keppler, Pastor Emeritus  
Rev. James W. King  
Deacon Stanley Galazin  
Sunday Assistants  
Msgr. John J. Bracken  
Rev. George Cowan  
Rev. Emmanuel Nartey

## Parish Staff

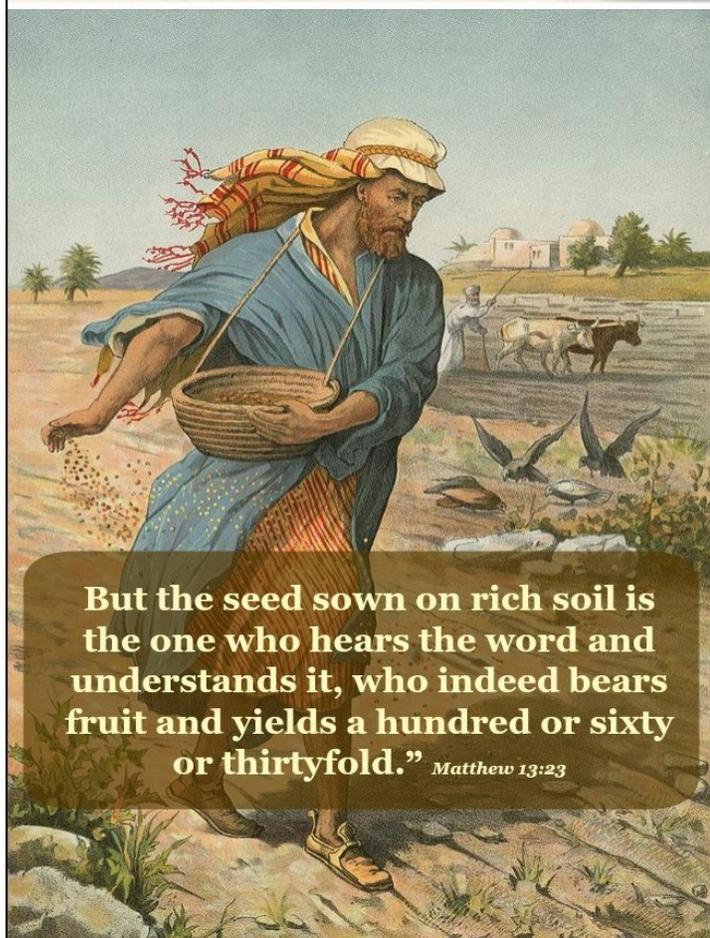
Ms. Patricia Adams, Business Manager  
Mrs. Theresa Asche, Religious Education  
Mr. Patrick White, Director of Music  
Ms. Cynthia Macias, Youth Minister  
Mr. Jose Espindola, Maintenance

## Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil 5pm  
Sunday 8:30am - 10:30am - 12:30 pm

Monday - Saturday 8:30am  
(Main Church Until Further Notice)  
Holy Days 8:30am - 12 Noon - 7:30pm

79-43 Bell Blvd  
Oakland Gardens, NY 11364  
(718) 464-4582  
Religious Education Office  
(718) 464-6411



**But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.”** *Matthew 13:23*

### American Martyrs Mission Statement

We, the diverse Catholic family of American Martyrs, are spiritually centered in the Word and the Eucharist. Our warm, welcoming community creates an atmosphere for a wonderful faith experience as we gather at the table of the Lord to help each other grow in Christ and live according to His teachings. Inspired by the faith and example of our patrons, the North Americans Martyrs, and the Blessed Mother, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we work together to spread the message of Jesus to all.

### American Martyrs Celebrates the Sacraments

**Penance:** Every Saturday at 4:00pm—4:45pm (Also at anytime convenient upon request)

**Baptisms:** The last Sunday of the month at 2:00 p.m., except during Lent and Christmas Seasons. Parents must speak to Deacon Stan and are required to attend an instruction class on the second to last Sunday at 11:30 a.m. in the Murray Center.

**Sacrament of the Sick Anointing of the Sick:** This sacrament is available for any baptized Catholic who is seriously ill or suffering the effects of advanced age. Please call the rectory to make an appointment for a priest to come to the home, or call anytime for a sudden illness. If serious surgery is scheduled, call to arrange for the anointing before you enter the hospital. A communal celebration of this sacrament is celebrated annually.

**Pastoral Care to the Homebound:** We are concerned about parishioners who are homebound and would like to receive the Eucharist, the Sacrament of Reconciliation or the Anointing of the Sick. If you are homebound, or if you know someone who is unable to come to Mass, please do not hesitate to contact the parish office at (718) 464-4582. Visits will be happily arranged for you.

**Holy Matrimony:** Call the Parish Office for information and appointment with a priest at least six months prior to the date you wish.

### Be Vigilant of Child Abuse At All Times!

It is vitally important that we are constantly vigilant—that we always observe the behaviors of those who interact with children. And we must always communicate our concerns to the appropriate parties. Sometimes this means communicating our safety concerns to our children. And sometimes this means communicating our concerns about seemingly inappropriate behavior to those who are in a position to intervene. Parents must also listen carefully to their children and observe both their children's activities and the behavior of older children and adults who interact with them. When children exhibit dramatic behavioral changes, adults must find out what caused the changes. Being aware of what's happening with our children means talking to, listening to, and observing them—at every opportunity.

**For help or info call: Maryellen Quinn: Diocese of Brooklyn's Safe Environment Coordinator 718-965-7300**

### A message from Fr. Peter Rayder

Please remember that although the Rectory Office is closed for the duration of the Corona virus pandemic, I am living in the Rectory building. In event of an emergency call the rectory. If I do not answer, leave a message, I WILL GET BACK TO YOU ASAP.

Confessions will be heard on Saturdays from 4pm-4:30pm and by an appointment. Anointing of the sick may be celebrated in dire need (danger of death) and I will always take proper precautions. Note Well: Hospitals do have Catholic Chaplains on call, so if you or a loved one is in a local hospital ask for the chaplain..

**VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE:**

**AMPARISH.ORG**

### PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS

Rev. LT. Mark Bristol, USN  
LCPL Christopher Keane - USMC  
PO3 John Schaefer - USCG  
SGT Christopher Cola -USA

### PRAYER FOR OUR TROOPS

**LORD, hold our troops in your loving hands.  
Protect them as they protect us.  
Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they  
perform for us in our time of need.  
And give us peace.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus,  
Our Lord and Savior. Amen**

**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.**

## Welcome Back Home to American Martyrs

We had our first week of Mass this past week and while we are still under NYS rules and guidelines, it may be time to be a "Monday Morning Quarterback."

From my perspective things went pretty good. ***But we can not let our guard down.*** We need to keep ourselves on our toes in regards to "Indoor" Social Distancing. Please read the simple guides that we are following, it will make it safer for everyone! Safety is the operative Word! Safety of everyone. We may have to bend a little when we can't sit in our "Spot." We may have to slow down our approach to receiving Holy Communion, leaving 6' space between the individual in front of us. Safety first! I know I would not want to be the cause of someone receiving Covid-19, especially one whose health may be compromised! Safety mingled with Respect!

Social Distancing and Holy Communion: While we are creatures of habit and sit in the same pew at every Mass (I do as well) for the time-being all of us must be flexible.

Seating is currently marked out on every pew. In each pew, people are asked to sit 6 feet apart. A household does not need to sit 6 feet apart and we have set aside the last pew of each section for families.

**Face Masks MUST** to be worn at all times inside the church.

***I REPEAT: FACE MASKS ARE A MUST.... ....FACE MASKS ARE NOT OPTIONAL!!!!***

Communion will be given at each Mass at the three stations like we always do here at American Martyrs.

You must approach the priest, deacon or Extra Ordinary Minister wearing your face mask and remaining 6 feet apart on the Communion line (follow the floor marking). **For the health safety of the ministers Holy Communion will be distributed in your hand only at the present time**, and then step aside, remove your face mask, consume Holy Communion, place your face mask back on, and move to your seat.

Deacon Stan, the Extra Ordinary Minister and I will sanitize our hands before Mass and before and after distributing Holy Communion. ***We will also wear a face mask while distributing Holy Communion.*** The sacred vessels on the altar will be covered during the consecration and only uncovered for the distribution of Holy Communion.

Sorry, but for safety, Altar Servers are not going to serve Mass at this time.

Lectors may will proclaim the Word of God at Mass, and will read from a separate podium used by the Leaders of Song rather than the Pulpit.

We are providing at the entrance hand sanitizer and we ask that everyone wash their hands as you enter. We do ask that you bring your own masks. **We will continue to sanitize American Martyrs after every Mass.**

When Mass has ended, out of respect for each other, we ask you to please leave American Martyrs in an orderly fashion and not gather outside. We have no choice but to follow the laws that NYS has put in place. Remember, if we do not follow the rules, we may again be forced to close our Church. So please follow the Common Sense approach to Social Distancing. And please respect that there among us those who truly can not afford to catch the virus

Thank you for your understanding, and you are in my prayers

Fr. Peter J. Rayder

Dear Faithful People of American Martyrs,

When the Covid-19 pandemic hit our city, and our churches were closed for public Masses, most of the pastors were worried that this pandemic would place a real financial burden on their parishes. Since we rely solely on the generosity of our parishioners mostly through their Sunday donations the future was a bit uncertain. As I sit here writing this I realized that much of my future worrying was needless. Throughout these past few weeks your generosity has been overwhelming, both thorough your weekly donations as well as your participation in the ACA. During a normal year we would have been showing videos, passing out pledge cards, and preaching for a few weeks asking for your help in meeting our ACA goal. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, none of those events took place...and yet here we are, a little more than half way through the year and we have already surpassed our goal. So, while I may not have had the opportunity to stand in front of you and ask for your participation in the ACA, I will definitely make sure that I am expressing my sincere thanks for your generosity. Your generosity is a true testament to your love for your parish of American Martyrs. Because we have surpassed our goal, any future donations will come directly to American Martyrs.

My plan

for the parish is to use that ACA money to place spotlights around the outside of our church to keep our church grounds lit at night. I will also place spotlights to illuminate the cross on the spire. I want the Oakland Gardens and American Martyrs Communities to see that we are here, alive as the Church of God.

Thank you again for answering the call and participating so generously to the ACA. You have shown without any doubt that "We are the Church"!

*In my prayers*  
Fr. Peter J. Rayder.

## ***Bit's and Pieces from Mike and Mike: "Building A House's Deck... ..One Nail at a Time!***

Dear People of God, In his book Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace, Kent Nerburn writes about his experience driving a cab for a living. He remembers one night in particular when he received a call at 2:30 a.m. to go to a small apartment complex. Thinking he was going to pick up some late night partiers or someone who had just had a fight with his or her spouse, he was surprised when a small woman in her eighties answered the door.

### **Grace at 2:30 a.m.**

She wore a print dress and an old-fashioned pillbox hat. By her side was a small nylon suitcase. The apartment was empty, except for a few pieces of furniture covered with sheets and a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware. The driver picked up her bag and helped her to the cab. She gave him the address and then asked, "Could you drive through downtown?" "It's not the shortest way." he answered. "Oh, I don't mind," she said. "I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice. I don't have any family left. The doctor says I don't have very long." The driver reached over and shut off the meter.

"What route would you like me to go?" For the next two hours, they drove through the city. She pointed out the building where she worked as an elevator operator, the house where she and her late husband lived as newlyweds, the furniture store that was once a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl. Sometimes she'd ask to slow down in front of a particular building or corner; there she would just sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing. As the dawn broke over the horizon, she said, "I'm tired. Let's go now." They drove to the small house that served as the hospice. Two attendants came and helped her out of the cab and took her bag. She asked the driver how much she owed for the fare. "Nothing," he said. "But you have to make a living," she insisted. "There are other passengers," he replied. Almost without thinking, he bent over and gave her a hug. She held him tightly. "You gave an old woman a little moment of joy," she said. "Thank you." Then, in the dim morning light, he watched as she walked into the hospice.

Life is a precious gift from God. We all need to appreciate now what we have (despite the pains, hurts and struggles of life) because one day it will be over. Take each day as a gift from God and make each day a gift to others.

An elderly woman once shared with me the four secrets to staying young, alive and filled with God.

- 1) You have to laugh and find humor every day.
- 2) You've got to have a dream. When you lose your dreams, you die. We have so many people walking around who are dead and don't even know it.
- 3) There is a huge difference between growing older and growing up. If you are nineteen years old and lie in bed for one full year and don't do one productive thing, you will turn twenty years old. If I am eighty-seven years old and stay in bed for a year and never do anything I will turn eighty-eight. Anybody can grow older. That doesn't take any talent or ability. The idea is to grow up by always finding the opportunity in change.
- 4) Have no regrets. The elderly usually don't have regrets for what we did, but rather for things we did not do. The only people who fear death are those with regrets.

As we continue our journey, take time to give thanks and always live life for others rooted in the Lord Jesus. Summer Blessings!

### **On the Journey with you, and Enjoy the Summer... .. Fr. Peter**

#### **AMERICAN MARTYRS PARISH CALANDAR**

As we begin to open our parish for daily and Sunday Masses, we will strive to reach our "new normal".

All parish organizations and other groups using the Sullivan Center, Murray Center, Board Room, Church, or School for parish functions are asked to submit a written **calendar of dates, times and locations** to Pat at the Rectory by **July 29**. We have not received word yet on when we can hold meetings at American Martyrs, but we would like to be prepared.

***Thanks for your help!***

#### **American Martyrs 2020 Mass Book Intentions**

There are still many Mass Intentions open for 2020. 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 contact the Rectory 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.

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

### SATURDAY - July 11

5:00 pm:

Joseph Ossanna—Gregg & Mary Ann

### SUNDAY - July 12

8:30 am: Misa Pro Populo

10:30 am: Theodoros Markou — 10:30 AM Ushers  
Katherine Wiski — Jovie & John

12:30 pm:

Homebound Parishioners of American Martyrs

### Monday - July 13—St. Henry

8:30 am: John Kowanitsch — Juran Family

### Tues. - July 14—St. Kateri Tekakwitha

8:30 am: In Thanksgiving for Fr. Frank —AM Parish

### Wed. - July 15 — St. Bonaventure

8:30 am: Fr. Cowan in Healing— AM Parish  
+ Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help +

### Thurs - July 16— Our Lady of Mr. Carmel

8:30 am: The Staff of American Martyrs

### Fri. - July 17

8:30 am: John MacPherson — Family

### Sat. - July 18 - St. Camillus de Lellis

8:30 am: The Rosary Society — AM Parish

5:00 pm: Edward Malench — Suzanne Malench

*The Gifts of Bread & Wine are offered  
In Loving Memory of:  
The Deceased of American Martyrs Parish*

### *Our Sick, Homebound and Hospitalized:*

Michael Arriaga, Barbagallo Family, Roberto Barrientos, Iride Bublik, Rose and Jessie Carlone, Bill Carrar, Frank Carroll, Chang Family, Diana Ferrante, Michael Gorry, Joe Kinney, Jack Kopcinski, Daniel Limberg, Brian Mastrococco, Steve McCabe, Ed Miles, Mary Modica, Frank Mollo, Danny Montchal, Frank Pagano, John Pinto, Lorraine Rensch, Amelia Reyes, John Sheridan, Jr., Sheila Still, Arlene Scherne, Marie

### **REMEMBER THE DECEASED OF AMERICAN MARTYRS**

~ Antonio Mongelli ~

~ Pasquale Ciaramella ~

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

### **Daily Mass celebrated in Church Monday - Saturday at 8:30 am.**

#### Sunday- July 12

Masses: 8:30 am; 10:30 am; & 12:30 pm  
Masks and social distancing are mandatory

#### Monday - July 13

NO Alcoholics Anonymous Beginners mtg.  
NO Alcoholics Anonymous (Open mtg.)

#### TUESDAY - July 14

NO BINGO

We are grateful for all of our Volunteers.

#### WED. - July 15

Rectory Office Closed  
NO Alcoholics Anonymous



#### THURS. - July 16

NO Leisure Club

#### SAT.— July 18 ·

4pm Confessions  
5 pm Mass celebrated in Church  
Masks and social distancing are mandatory

#### SUNDAY- July 19

Masses: 8:30 am; 10:30 am; & 12:30 pm  
Masks and social distancing are mandatory

## SUNDAY COLLECTION

**Weekly Offering—June 28, 2020 — \$2,353.**

**Weekly Offering—June 30 2019 — \$5,077**

More parishioners are making their donations electronically. THIS IS A VERY GOOD THING, and I encourage more people to do so. Thank you so much for your continued support of American Martyrs Church.

### GENERATIONS OF FAITH

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN & AMERICAN MARTYRS'  
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

As of July 1, 2020

Amount Pledged: \$1,227,929.

Total Paid on Pledges: \$1,024,400.

Amount returned to American Martyrs: \$588,687.

Number of Parishioners participating: 317

Thank you for your faithfulness in fulfilling your pledges.

## SUMMER ATTIRE

American Martyrs is air conditioned for your comfort. With summer months upon us, we tend toward a more relaxed way of life as well as dress. Please be conscious of proper attire for church.



THANK YOU

## Summer Rectory Hours

9am – 4pm (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday)

9:00 am – 12:00 Noon on Friday

*Rectory Will Be Closed  
Wednesdays and Saturday During Summer*

Evening Hours by Appointment Only

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - REGISTRATION

While parish buildings are closed, Religious Education registration for September are taking place online.

Please visit: [amreligionclass.weebly.com](http://amreligionclass.weebly.com) to print an application.

Please send the completed form back to the Rectory.

 **New York** Blood Center



New York Blood Center Blood Drives Are Back!!  
They Need Your Help Now!

Call For An Appointment 1-800-933-2566

Visit their website: [www.nybloodcenter.org](http://www.nybloodcenter.org)

### Floater and Smitty “We are talking but not making sense” American Martyrs in House Comedians

**Floater:** Summer vacation would probably be a little more relaxing if my kids were vacationing somewhere else.

**Smitty:** I took one of those naps everyone is raving about.

**Floater:** Anything is a boomerang if you throw it straight up.

**Smitty:** I opened the dishwasher and it's full of clean dishes and I'm scared my wife is going to know that I know.

**Floater:** I am rarely more focused on 5 seconds than when I'm waiting to skip an ad on the internet.

**Smitty:** I always knew I'd find some creative way to be ignored by everyone.

**Floater:** I have like 26 photos of my entire childhood. Most of you probably have that many selfies from this morning.

**Smitty:** Pro Tip: If your coworker has a picture of herself and her dog labeled "Beauty and the Beast" you shouldn't ask her which one is which.

**Floater:** I'm the best, just ask me, I'll tell ya!

**Smitty:** I gotta come clean... ..I LOVE the NY METS

**Floater:** : What weighs more, a gallon of water or a gallon of butane? A: The water. Butane is lighter fluid.

**Smitty:** What kind of shoes does a lazy person wear?

Loafers!



## 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.

### 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](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.

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.

National Suicide Prevention help line: -1-800-273-8255

Healing After Abortion: Sisters of Life at: **866-575-0075**

[Hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org](mailto:Hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org).

"Don't pray when you feel like it.  
Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES POP-UP FOOD PANTRY

Each week Catholic Charities is in need of volunteers to assist with preparing and distributing bags of food at their pop-up food pantries. Typically on Wednesday and Friday mornings at Queens and Brooklyn parishes in neighborhoods with the most need. Participating in this Corporal Work of Mercy is a chance to bear witness to what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. Please email Mike Shoule at [shoulekofc@gmail.com](mailto:shoulekofc@gmail.com) if you would like to receive more info.

## The Census is easy and safe

Fill out now at: [MY2020census.gov](http://MY2020census.gov). Or call: 1-844-330-2020.

The more New Yorkers who fill out the census, the more money we get for our: Schools, Housing, Jobs, Senior Centers, Hospitals, and Roads & Bridges.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

\*\*\* ALL  
ACTIVITIES  
HAVE BEEN  
CANCELED  
UNTIL  
FURTHER

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower.  
All who come to Him will have life forever.

## PRAYING THE ROSARY

During this time of uncertainty and anxiety, I encourage you to pray the Rosary daily. This wonderful devotion has given comfort and strength to Catholics throughout the centuries. The intercession of Our Lady is indeed powerful and most needed at this time.

## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

My Jesus, I believe that You are present  
in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things and I desire to receive You in  
my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You  
sacramentally, Come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself  
wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen