



American Martyrs

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 19, 2020

Parish Clergy

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

Parish Staff

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

Mass Schedule

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

Daily Mass

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

American Martyrs RC Church
79-43 Bell Blvd.
Oakland Gardens, NY 11364
(718) 464 - 4582
Religious Education Office
(718) 464 - 6411

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

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE:
AMPARISH.ORG

PARABLES

These are the weeks of parables, and although we have heard them all many times, they never lose their freshness, for always, if we look, we can perceive a new angle.

The parable of the weeds and the wheat, so simple on its surface, is puzzling enough for the disciples to ask Jesus for an explanation. In our own gardens, we tend to yank up the weeds all through the growing season. But in the parable, the weeds and the wheat are allowed to grow together until the harvest. If the good people and the evil people remain mixed throughout life, it puzzles us sometimes: why are people who do bad things not punished? How is it that God allows bad things to happen to good people?

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

We had our third full week of Mass this past week and while we are still under NYS rules and guidelines, I have witnessed a total respect and reverence approach by everyone attending Mass.

However I believe we can not let our guard down. We need to keep ourselves on our toes in regards to 'Indoor' Social Distancing. 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 You do not want to be the cause of someone receiving Corvid-19, especially one whose health may be compromised! Safety mingled with Respect!

Seating is clearly marked out on every pew.

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

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. **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.

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.**

We really 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. Please follow the Common Sense approach to Social Distancing. And respect that there among us those who truly can not afford to catch the virus... **...BE SAFE**

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Gospel Summary

This Gospel is a way of explaining why there is good and evil in the world today. As Jesus explained in the parable, the weeds (or evil) are allowed to grow with the wheat (or good). Only at the harvest (the end time) would God separate the good from the evil just as the farmer will separate the wheat from the weeds in Jesus' parable.

Reflection for Families

How do we answer our children when they ask why bad things happen to good people? This parable of the wheat and the weeds may be a way of explaining why God allows evil, like the weeds, to grow next to goodness in our world today. Evil will not really be gone until the fullness of God's Kingdom.

Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family

Try as a family to think about why God allows weeds to grow among the wheat in today's Gospel story. Either by looking through the newspaper, or sharing news about people in your own community, family or neighborhood, think about where weeds are growing. Consider ways that as a family you can help control the spreading of these weeds. What actions will you take? **RCL Benziger, Inc**

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 through 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, It is hard to believe we've melted into the middle of July and the summer already seems to be flying much too quickly!

Please take and make the time this summer to come to Mass, pray and create wonderful and lasting memories with family and friends. Don't keep talking about doing all those things you were saving to do this summer—just do it!

On this weekend, allow me the chance to share with you “summer meanderings and vignettes” Enjoy and pass them on

A PENCIL MAKER TOLD THE PENCIL 5 IMPORTANT LESSIONS JUST BEFORE PUTTING IT IN THE BOX:

- 1) Everything you do will always leave a mark.
- 2) You can always correct the mistakes you make.
- 3) What is important is what is inside of you.
- 4) In life, you will undergo painful sharpenings, which will only make you better.
- 5) To be the best pencil, you must allow yourself to be held and guided by the hand that holds you.

We all need to be constantly sharpened. This parable may encourage you to know that you are a special person, with unique God-given talents and abilities. Only you can fulfill the purpose which you were born to accomplish. Never allow yourself to get discouraged and think that your life is insignificant and cannot be changed like the pencil. Always remember that the most important part of who you are, is what's inside of you and then allow yourself to be guided by the hand of God.

Food For Thought!

- 1) Prayer is not a “spare wheel” that you pull out when in trouble, but is a “steering wheel” that directs the right path throughout.
- 2) Why is a car's windshield so large and the rearview mirror so small? Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. So look ahead and move on.
- 3) Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes a few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.
- 4) All things in life are temporary. If going well enjoy it, they will not last forever. If going wrong, don't worry, they can't last long either.
- 5) Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, “Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!”
- 6) A blind person asked St. Anthony: “Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?” He replied: “Yes, losing your vision!”
- 7) When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
- 8) WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES, it takes away today's PEACE.

There is always room for a joke...

The graveside service just barely finished when there was a massive clap of thunder, followed by a tremendous bolt of lightening, accompanied by even more thunder in the distance. The little old lady looked at the preacher and calmly said, “Well . . . he's there!”

**Summer blessings and joy,
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 18

5:00 pm: Edward Malench—*Suzanne Malench*

SUNDAY - July 19

8:30 am: Misa Pro Populo

10:30 am: Charles Kavaliauskas—*Family*
Jack Bills—*Ann Marie Bills*

Theodoros Markou—*Nancy & Ray*

12:30 pm: Medardo Jao—*Jao Family*

Monday - July 20—St. Apollinaris

8:30 am: Alice M. Rayder—*Fr. Peter*

Tues. - July 21 - St. Lawrence of Brindisi

8:30 am: Pasquale Ciaramella—*Juarez & Nguyen Family*

Wed. - July 22—St. Mary Magdalene

8:30 am: Mary Diamond - *Dcn. Stan & Mary Galzain*

Every Wednesday After Mass

✠ *Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help* ✠

Thurs - July 23 — St. Bridget

8:30 am: Nicholas Parfait (Living) — *Mom*

Fri. - July 24—St. Sharbel Makhluif

8:30 am: Millie McSkimming—*Adams Family*

Sat. - July 25 - St. James

8:30 am: Intentions of the Catholic War Veterans

5:00 pm: Joseph, Marie and Marie deAngelis—*Family*

*The Gifts of Bread & Wine are offered
In Thanksgiving for the gift of Patricia Adams to
American Martyrs*

REMEMBER THE DECEASED OF AMERICAN MARTYRS

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

Our Sick, Homebound and Hospitalized:

Michael Arriaga, Barbagallo Family, Roberto Barrientos, Iride Bubek, Rose and Jessie Carlone, Bill Carrar, Frank Carroll, Chang Family, Diana Ferrante, Michael Gorry, Joe Kinney, Jack Kopcinski, Daniel Limberg, Brian Mastrorocco, 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 Scuderi, Lee Servillo, Paulette Wilson and Genevieve Zenka.

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 19

Masses: 8:30 am; 10:30 am; & 12:30 pm

Masks and social distancing are mandatory

Monday - July 20

NO Alcoholics Anonymous Beginners mtg.

NO Alcoholics Anonymous (Open mtg.)

TUESDAY - July 21

NO BINGO

We are grateful for all of our Volunteers.

WED. - July 22

Rectory Office Closed

NO Alcoholics Anonymous

THURS. - July 23

NO Leisure Club

SAT.— July 25

4pm Confessions

5 pm Mass celebrated in Church

Masks and social distancing are mandatory

SUNDAY— July 26

Masses: 8:30 am; 10:30 am; & 12:30 pm

Masks and social distancing are mandatory

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.

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Weekly Offering—July 5, 2020 — \$4,395

Weekly Offering—July 7, 2019 — \$5,825

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.

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 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

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

Floater: Started doing CrossFit this week and I already lost 14 friends!

Smitty: You know that tingly feeling when you fall in love? That's common sense leaving your body

Floater: My wife wishes she had a man around the house . . .
...to hand her the tools while she fixing things.

Smitty: I went to the park today and stared at my phone.

Floater: If you want to trust Siri to transcribe your spoken words accurately, then be my guessed.

Smitty: Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish and he will be calling out of work a lot.

Floater: I don't want you kids to get off my lawn, I want you to mow it

Smitty: "You get what you give"* *Disclaimer - May not apply to feelings and definitely not money

Floater: I've found that people tend to leave you alone after they've seen you eat mashed potatoes out of your coat pocket.

Smitty: It takes me about 18 hours to fully wake up. And then it's time for bed again

Floater: Man shot 200 times with upholstery gun. Surgeons revealed he is now 'fully recovered.'



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 -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.

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

Healing After Abortion: Sisters of Life at: **866-575-0075**
Hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org.

*"What you are is God's gift to you,
what you become is your gift to God."
Hans Urs von Balthasar*

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 if you would like to receive more info.

The Census is easy and safe

Fill out now at: 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
NOTICE**

*The only time you fail is when you
fall down and stay down.*

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 thing 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