

American Martyrs

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

Parish Clergy

Rev. Peter J. Rayder, Pastor
Rev. James W. King
Deacon Stanley Galazin
Rev. Msgr. John F. Keppler,
Pastor Emeritus

Sunday Assistants

Rev. Msgr. John J. Bracken
Rev. George R. 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

Sunday Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil 5pm
Sunday 8:30am - 10:30am - 12:30 pm
Weekday Daily Mass
8:30am Monday - Saturday
American Martyrs Kateri Chapel
Holy Days 8:30am - 12 Noon - 7:30pm

Fr. John J. Murray

Knights of Columbus Council #14666
First Friday Holy Hour
7:30pm American Martyrs Church

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



Christmas Mass Schedule at American Martyrs

Christmas Eve

3pm

5pm (Children's Mass)

7pm

9pm

Midnight

Christmas Day

8:30am

10:30am

12:30 pm

LECTORS AND EXTRA ORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please call Pat Adams or Fr. Peter in the rectory ASAP in regards to your availability ministering on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

We have added Masses this year as we try to accommodate all who wish to attend American Martyrs for Christmas. We need your help in ministering to the faithful.

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.

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

Dear People of God,

Our Advent Season moves into the second week. It's very easy (and understandable) to get so caught up in the hustle and bustle of cards, gift buying, cooking and shopping that Advent's real meaning gets lost in the whirl of activity.

We cannot always change our place in life, but we can change the way we look at it.

As we move closer toward Christmas Day, will the days to come be filled with anxiety, stress, worry and a sense of being overwhelmed? Or despite the crazy schedule, am I able to see the Blessings of family, faith, love and the presence of God made visible through the birth of Jesus? We make choices. Will I choose to let the burdens of life weigh me down? Will I choose to see everything as a gift and blessing despite the flurry of activities?

I share with you a story that was given to me.

It beautifully reflects Advent and Christmas' real meaning — especially through children.

The "W" in Christmas

Each December, I vowed to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience. I had cut back on nonessential obligations—extensive card writing, endless baking, decorating, and even overspending. Yet still, I found myself exhausted, unable to appreciate the precious family moments, and of course, the true meaning of Christmas.

My son, Nicholas, was in kindergarten that year. It was an exciting season for a six year old. For weeks, he'd been memorizing songs for his school's "Winter Pageant." I didn't have the heart to tell him I'd be working the night of the production. Unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke with his teacher. She assured me there'd be a dress rehearsal the morning of the presentation. All parents unable to attend that evening were welcome to come then. Fortunately, Nicholas seemed happy with the compromise.

So, the morning of the dress rehearsal, I filed in ten minutes early, found a spot on the cafeteria floor and sat down. Around the room, I saw several other parents quietly scampering to their seats. As I waited, the students were led into the room. Each class, accompanied by their teacher, sat cross-legged on the floor. Then, each group, one by one, rose to perform their song.

Because the public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as "Christmas," I didn't expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment — songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes and good cheer. So, when my son's class rose to sing, "Christmas Love," I was slightly taken aback by its bold title.

Nicholas was aglow, as were all of his classmates, adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters, and bright snow caps upon their heads. Those in the front row-center stage-held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song. As the class would sing "C is for Christmas," a child would hold up the letter C. Then, "H is for Happy," and on and on, until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message, "Christmas Love."

The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed her; a small, quiet girl in the front row holding the letter "M" upside down — totally unaware her letter "M" appeared as a "W." The audience of first through sixth graders snickered at this little one's mistake. But she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding her "W."

Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued until the last letter was raised, and we all saw it together. A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen. In that instant, we understood the reason we were there, why we celebrated the holiday in the first place, why even in the chaos, there was a purpose for our festivities. For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear:

CHRISTWAS LOVE." And, I believe, He still is. Amen. - Author Unknown

Let's Be Prepared and Pray for each other... ..As we journey to Bethlehem... ..Fr. Peter

This Sunday as we begin to celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent, a season of joyful expectation of Christmas, a season for renewing our hearts as a dwelling place for Christ who was born among us... ..If you have an Advent Wreath at home, pray for peace this week as you light the first candle each day.

Let us pray for peace...

Let us pray for an end to war, to terrorism, violence and bloodshed, let us pray for the safe return of those who are in harm's way, who are far away from home and family and friends, let us pray for peace at our nation's borders and at the borders of nations around the world, let us pray for those who have died in war and for their loved ones who grieve their loss, let us pray for our enemies, let us pray for the poor who suffer war's hardships, let us pray for the peace the world cannot give or make for itself. Let us pray for peace in the Church. Let us pray for healing peace in the hearts and minds, in the souls of those who have been abuse, by the Church and her ministers. Let us pray for peace among the people of God.

And let us pray for an end to the little (and larger) wars we wage in our own lives, families and neighborhoods, at work, at school and in the church, let us pray for peace and safety in the lives of all who live in homes with domestic violence, let us pray for peace and an end to violence in our nation, let us pray for those who have been harmed by our stubbornness, let us pray for those we make our personal enemies, let us pray for those who make enemies of us, let us pray for an end to the wars we fight within ourselves, let us pray for healing peace in the minds and hearts of all who live with anxiety, fear and depression, let us pray for peace, let us pray for the peace we cannot give or make for ourselves.



Welcome to American Martyrs
Bishop Raymond F. Chappetto, D.D.

American Martyrs



Religious Education News



Bishop Chappetto, a rather intelligent man being he is an avid NY Met fan, will be visiting American Martyrs confirming the grace of the Sacrament of Confirmation upon the Confirmandi.

Confirmation will be celebrated at 3pm and again at 5pm on Thursday, December 10th. Please keep the teens in your prayers this week as they prepare for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Confirmation will be live streamed on American Martyrs website and FaceBook pages at 3pm and 5pm



**Feast of the Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Mass Schedule: 8:30am, 12 Noon and 7:30pm**

OUR MITTEN DRIVE IS BACK!!!



**We will be collecting new and gently-used mittens, gloves, scarves, hats for adults and children.
These items are donated to a Family Shelter for those families in need.
Your generosity is very much appreciated.**

AMERICAN MARTYRS
CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE
BLESS A FAMILY THIS CHRISTMAS



TAKE A TAG AND
GIVE A GIFT TO
THOSE IN NEED

PLEASE PLACE
WRAPPED GIFT
BACK UNDER THE
GIVING TREE BY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

Collection for November 28, 2020

Sunday: \$6,032

*(Compared to Last Year's
Collection of \$6,802)*

Christmas Flowers: \$1,339

Starting Tuesday, January 5, 2020
Weekly Sacred Scripture Study with Fr. Peter

After 8:30am Mass
In the Murray Center

For more Info call:
Annabelle Villegas 917-331-1312

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 5th
5:00 pm: Joseph Ossanna

Sunday, December 6th
8:30 am: Anna Smaldino (Mary Anne Gregg)
10:30: Purgatorial Society
12:30: For Faithful of American Martyrs

Monday, December 7th
Healing of Christine Biondo (Aunt Karen)

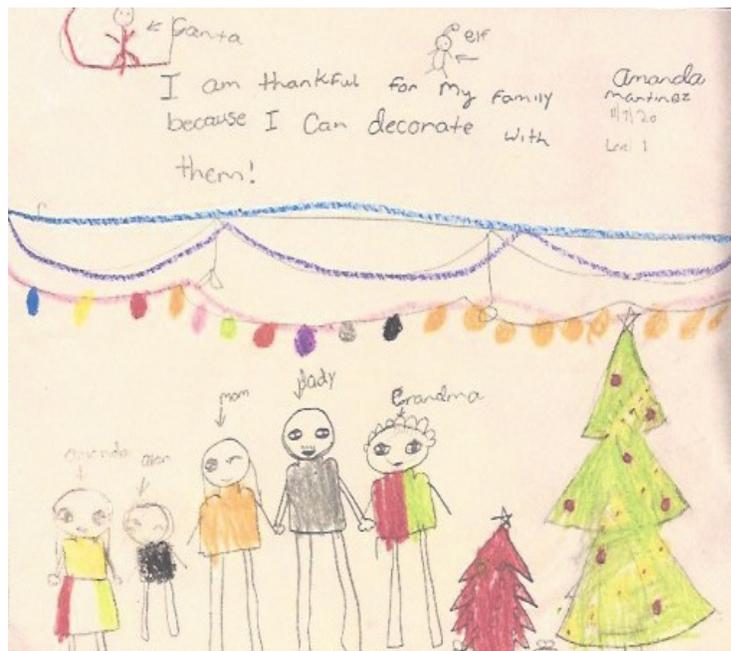
Tuesday, December 8th (Holy Day of Obligation)
The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8:30am: Henry Bandin (Bandin Family)
12 Noon: Lorraine Rensch (Irene McGrath)
7:30pm Faithful of American Martyrs

Wednesday, December 9th
David A. Zack (Ruth Zack)

Thursday, December 10th
Dan Kirk (Mary Fullam and Family)

Friday, December 11th
Healing of Christine Biondo (Aunt Karen)

Saturday, December 12th
8:30 am: Thomas Dinegar (Mel Klusky), Archangel Michael (Migene), Aida & Luis Parrales (Sarah)
5:00 pm: Joseph, Marie and Marie deAngelis (Family)



The Gifts of Bread & Wine are offered for

**Patricia Whitmarse
From her Loving Family**

REMEMBER THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

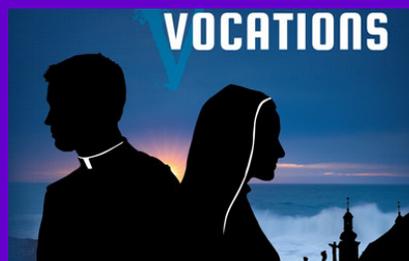
Nicholas Capareoli

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, Jack Kopcinski, Daniel Limberg, Brian Mastrorocco, Steve McCabe, Ed Miles, Mary Modica, Frank Mollo, Lorraine Rensch, Amelia Reyes, John Sheridan, Jr., Sheila Still, Arlene Scherne, Marie Scuderi, Paulette Wilson, Glen Fergerson, Kathy Evers, Patrick Carragee and Jack O'Grady



Second Sunday of Advent -- December 6, 2020
"Like a shepherd he feeds his flock." Consider following Christ more closely as a priest, deacon or in consecrated life. Contact the Vocation Office at (718) 827-2454 or email: vocations@diobrook.org.



Fr. John J. Murray Council 14666
Church of American Martyrs

**Knights of
Columbus®**



Pro-Life Mass & Prayer Vigil Saturday Morning December 19, 2020

Please consider attending the Helpers of God's Precious Infants (helpersbrooklynny.org) Pro-Life mass Saturday morning 11/21 at 7:30AM at St. Mary's of Long Island City located at 10-08 49th Avenue in Long Island City. After the mass, if you choose to participate, there is the opportunity to join the 10-15 minute Rosary procession to abortion provide Planned Parenthood where we will continue to pray the Rosary with our masks on before processing back to the church. Prayer is our greatest tool as Catholics as we do our part to protect and advocate for the unborn so please invite a friend or family member to attend as well.

Send Christmas Blessings and Greetings To Our Troops



Let our heroes know you're thinking of them this holiday season and keep their spirits high by sending your own warm, heartfelt wishes. One message from you will mean so much. Tell a proud service member that you stand by them!

Go to USO and Hallmark website to send your Christmas Message:

https://action.uso.org/2010_HALLMARK/?sc=WA20WORHMS

KNOW THE MASS, ONE WORD AT A TIME



Know

The Mass is no classroom, but it is the place where we come to know the most important things about ourselves, our world, and our future. "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God," Jesus says.

If we pay attention in the Mass, we come to know extraordinary things.

In and through the Mass, we know that God loves us. We know that forgiveness is in reach. We know that death does not have the last word. We know that Jesus, the Bread of Life, walks with us and sustains us.

Amazingly, at Mass we come to know the inner life and intentions of God. The words of Jesus become true for us: "And no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him" (Matthew 11:27).

Floater and Smitty

American Martyrs in House Comedians

Floater: I'm trying to get some good Italian sausage recipes on the internet, does anyone know any good links?

Smitty: I like bread jokes. Eye have a rye sense of humor.

Floater: A pet store had a bird contest with no perches necessary.

Smitty: There was a big paddle sale at the boat store, it was quite an oar deal.

Floater: Almost dated a Radiologist but she could see right through me.

Smitty: I got a book today titled, A Guide To Surgical Procedures, I opened it up and the appendix was missing

Floater: Got myself a coffee today, asked if I could pay by card, the waitress said, "yes of course: what have you got?" I said: "the four of clubs."

Smitty: I got a new computer that sings. It's a dell.

Floater: I caught my son Thomas chewing on electrical cords. So I had to ground him. He's doing better currently. And conducting himself properly.

Smitty: If you notice cows sleeping in a field, does that mean it's pasture bedtime?

Floater: Once you see one shopping center, you've seen a mall.

Smitty: I'm broke but not like poor broke. I'm classy type of broke. I'm broque.

FLOATER: ACCORDING TO MY 'CHOCOLATE' ADVENT CALANDER THERE ARE ONLY 3 DAYS LEFT TILL CHRISTMAS