

# American Martyrs

February 14, 2021

## Ash Wednesday Schedule



8:30am Mass

12 Noon Prayer Service

3pm Prayer Service

7:30pm

### 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.

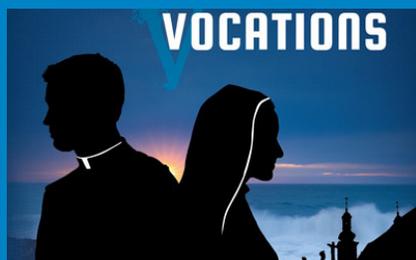
### Be Vigilant of Child Abuse At All Times!

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**

### AMERICAN MARTYRS WEB ADDRESS

AMPARISH.ORG



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time -- February 14, 2021  
"Do everything for the glory of God" Jesus the Eternal Word continues to call many to lives of holiness as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life. Could you be one of them? Contact the Vocation Office at (718) 827-2454 or email: vocations@diobrook.org.

### PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS

Rev. LT. Mark Bristol, USN  
LCPL Christopher Keane - USMC  
PO3 John Schaefer - USCG  
TAO Sean Reiley—USN

### 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.**

Dear Faithful People of God

The snow is lingering around and the 40 Days of Lent are 60 hours away. On the cover of the bulletin is the schedule for Ash Wednesday, we hope to see you at sometime during the day. Church will be open all day if you wish to stay awhile after Mass or to come early for the next prayer service or next Mass of the day. Please pass the Mass schedule onto your family, friends and neighbors. I've reposted Deacon Stan's letter from last weeks' so please read it for some interesting thoughts as we approach Ash Wednesday during Corvid19 time.bulletin

We are a marked people on Ash Wednesday! Lent is an opportunity and time for repentance, conversion, listening and new beginnings. We move from death to life so abundant we call it Eternal — Resurrection — Easter Faith.

I share part of a Commencement Address by Anna Quindlen to the graduating class at Trinity Western University. May her poignant words speak hope and provide a clearer road this Lenten journey.

People don't talk about the soul very much anymore. It's so much easier to write a resumé than to craft a spirit. But a resumé is a cold comfort on a winter night, or when you're sad, or broke, or just lonely. Just keep your eyes and ears open. Here you could learn in the classroom. There the classroom is everywhere. The exam comes at the very end.

I found one of my best teachers on the boardwalk at Coney Island maybe 15 years ago. It was December, and I was doing a story about how the homeless survive in the winter months. He and I sat on the edge of the wooden supports, dangling our feet over the side, and he told me about his schedule, panhandling the boulevard when the summer crowds were gone, sleeping in a church when the temperature went below freezing, hiding from the police amidst the Tilt-a-Whirl and the Cyclone and some of the other seasonal rides.

But he told me that most of the time he stayed on the boardwalk, facing the water, just the way we were sitting now, even when it got cold and he had to wear his newspapers after he read them.

And I asked him why. Why didn't he go to one of the shelters? Why didn't he check himself into the hospital for detox?

And he just stared out at the ocean and said, "Look at the view, young lady. Look at the view." And every day, in some little way, I try to do what he said. I try to look at the view. And that's the last thing I have to tell you today, words of wisdom from a man with not a dime in his pocket, no place to go, nowhere to be. Look at the view. You'll never be disappointed.

**Our Lenten journey begins on Wednesday. Plan to start your Season of Lent by joining us for our Ash Wednesday Liturgies, see cover of bulletin for schedule.**

May we open our hearts and invite the Lord Jesus to touch our lives this Holy Season — and look at the view through a Jesus lens! Remember — you can never go back and start a new beginning. But starting today you can make a new ending.

**Preparing to go on the Lenten journey with you... ...Fr. Peter**

### ***FROM THE DESK OF DEACON STAN...***

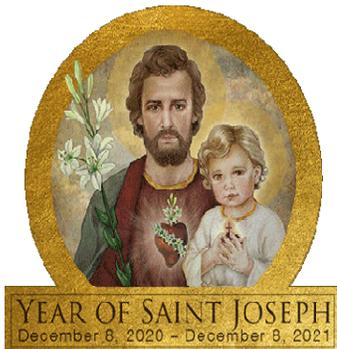


...Wednesday, February 17 is Ash Wednesday the beginning of Lent. Due to Covid restrictions the imposition of ashes will be different this year than in the past. In prior years ashes were distributed by a priest, deacon or minister of Communion making the sign of the cross on the person's forehead and reciting the traditional formula "REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST AND UNTO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN" or a contemporary version "TURN AWAY FROM SIN BE FAITHFUL TO THE GOSPEL." This year the process will change,

Instead of imposing ashes on the forehead the minister will sprinkle ashes over the persons head.

The reason for the change is simple: it is to avoid personal contact thereby reducing the chance of spreading the virus. Sprinkling the ashes over the forehead is not a new process. It has its origins in the Bible especially the Old Testament. In fact many countries in Europe sprinkle ashes over the head instead of placing them on the forehead.

Some people may be upset with this new procedure. However they should take consolation in the first reading for Ash Wednesday where the prophet Joel tells the people to "render your hearts not your garments." It is the spirit of the observance not the outward appearance that counts



*Prayer to St. Joseph*

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

**KNOW THE MASS, ONE WORD AT A TIME**

Photo © John Zich



Love

"Love" is a great word, but unfortunately it's often an empty word without much depth or meaning. That was not true for Saint Paul who had a powerful and life-transforming experience of love: "I live by

faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). Every time Paul celebrated the Eucharist, he knew that love anew when he heard Jesus's great words: "This is my body, which will be given up for you."

In Sunday Mass we meet the living Jesus who loves us to the utmost in giving himself up for us. When we truly know and believe his self-sacrificing love made present and real in the Mass, we are forever changed. Nothing else can matter as much. In loving us, Jesus transforms our lives.

**Lenten Regulations**

We once again enter into the grace-filled season of Lent. Throughout our Lenten journey, in preparation for the celebration of our Lord's resurrection, we are invited to enter into a more intense period of prayer, penance, and almsgiving. In order to assist the faithful of the Diocese of Brooklyn to take full advantage of the Lenten season, our Bishop, Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, would like to remind us of the following:

- † **ABSTINENCE:** All the faithful who have reached 14 years of age are required to abstain totally from meat on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent.
- † **FASTING:** All the faithful between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive are bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This practice involves limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Light sustenance may also be taken on two other occasions during the day.
- † The special Paschal fast and abstinence are prescribed for Good Friday and encouraged for Holy Saturday.
- † **EASTER DUTY:** After they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, all the faithful are bound by the obligation of receiving Holy Communion at least once a year. This precept must be fulfilled during the Easter season, unless for a good reason it is fulfilled at another time of the year. By special indult, in the United States, the time period for fulfilling this precept has been extended to include the period beginning the First Sunday of Lent (February 21, 2021) to The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity (Sunday, May 30, 2021).

I



You a ?  
Are you watching out  
for your neighbors during  
these harsh Winter

February is American Heart Month



# BLOOD DRIVE

**American Martyrs Church  
Sunday, February 28, 2021**

**9:15am - 1:45pm**

**79-43 Bell Blvd., Bayside**

**Appointments Preferred walk-ins welcome if capacity permits**

To make an appointment:

[https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/278518](https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/278518)

or contact [mmccaffrey@nybc.org](mailto:mmccaffrey@nybc.org) or 516-478-5013

Please remember to eat, drink & bring donor ID card or ID with name and photo.

**DONORS PRESENTING:**

- Must wear a mask or face covering
- Will have their temperature taken
- Must be 14 days symptom free if recovered from COVID-19

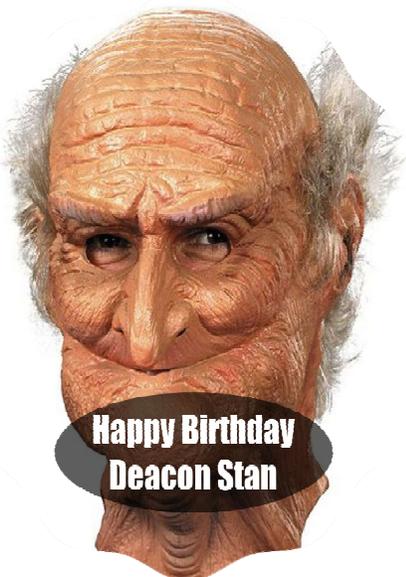
- May **NOT** donate if they have a positive diagnostic test or experienced symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- May **NOT** donate if they are currently on self-quarantine restrictions

Please be aware that we **do NOT test for COVID-19**. You should contact your health care provider if you want to be tested.



1.800.933.BLOOD

**New York** Blood Center



**Happy Birthday  
Deacon Stan**

## Little Black Lent Reflection Book

Daily Six minute reflections on  
the Sunday Gospels of Lent

Take one home as you leave  
Mass today...

...leave it by the TV or Kitchen  
Table for the entire family to  
reflect upon this Lenten Season



**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

**Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:00 pm: Joseph, Marie + Marie deAngelis (Family)**

**Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:30 am: The Faithful of American Martyrs**  
**10:30am: Jack Bills (Ann Marie Bills)**  
**Antoinette (Ann Marie Bills)**  
**Robert Torres (Hinck Family)**  
**12:30pm: Norma Salinas Gumboc (Maria)**

**Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**Harold Peragine (Rose + Jessie Carlone)**

**Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Betty Pierce (Mike + Lynn Clendin)**

**Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:30am Mass**  
**12 Noon and 3pm Prayer Service**  
**7:30pm Mass**

**Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**Konstanty + Oenigna Wilkowski (Donna + Steve)**

**Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**Intentions of Deacon Stan**

**7:15PM DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET**  
**7:30PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:30 am: Joseph, Marie + Marie deAngelis (Family)**

**5:00 pm: Stanley Ruzalski (Children)**

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Sisters of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus**  
 Will minister to the elderly in their own homes. Call 718-888-7708.

**Catholic Charities Home-base Program**  
 assists those with housing crisis, Call 718-674-1000 for more info  
**Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn**  
 Donate your old Car, Truck or Van - running or not. 718-491-2525.  
 The Society will give back to American Martyrs.

**Al-Anon and Ala-teen Family Groups**  
 Hope, help, and happiness are attainable. -- 212-941-0094  
[nycalanon.org](http://nycalanon.org)

**Catholic Charities Neighborhood Home Delivered Meals**  
 Call 718-357-4903 for more information.

**Nar-Anon Never Alone:** Call for info 718-217-0364.  
**National Suicide Prevention Help line:** -1-800-273-8255  
**Healing After Abortion:** Sisters of Life at: 866-575-0075

**Collection for January 31, 2021**  
 E-Giving: \$1,800  
 Collection: \$3,093  
 Total: \$4,893  
**Sunday, February 2, 2020: \$ 6,509**  
**(PREPARING FOR SNOW STORM)**

**Collection for February 7, 2021**  
 E-Giving: \$1,310  
 Collection: \$3,2726  
 Total: \$4,036  
**(SNOW ON LAST SUNDAY)**  
**Sunday, February 9, 2020: \$ 5,194**

**Thank You for your support of American Martyrs during this difficult time.**



**The Gifts of Bread & Wine are offered for intentions of John + Hedwig Sosna (Donna + Steve)**

**REMEMBER THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED**  
 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 Ferguson, Kathy Evers, Tricia Zafferese, Irene McGrath, Frances Burgess and Chistine Biondi



**JOIN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
EACH FRIDAY NIGHT OF LENT AS WE PRAY  
7:15PM DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET  
7:30PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
FOLLOWED BY BENEDICTION**



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

**Knights of  
Columbus®**



**COLUMBIETTES**

**News from The American Martyrs Columbiettes :  
“A Catholic Organization for Women”**

**We warmly invite ladies age 18 + Up  
To Join Our Awesome Council  
For info please call Deneille Loprete @ 917-414-3753**

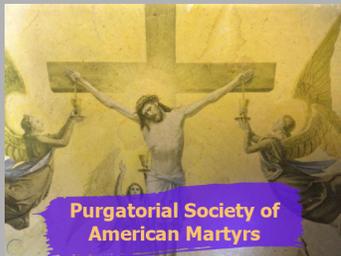
### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Many Catholics who are not active in the Church will still seek out ashes this Wednesday. Likewise, many Jews who are not otherwise observant will follow the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, with great exactness, fasting and refraining from work and entertainment. People customarily dress in white as a symbol of purity and a reminder of God's promise that our sins will be made white as snow. While the overture to Ash Wednesday for Christians may be a festive Mardi Gras celebration, for Jews it is the New Year feast of Rosh Hashanah. Ten days before the Day of Atonement to God, people are expected to repair breaks in human life. These are days for offering forgiveness and seeking to repair harmed relationships with family, friends, or coworkers. Everyone is expected to seek out someone and clear the air by asking for understanding for any mean words or thoughtless deeds in the past year. Perhaps the ashes you receive will be invested with deeper meaning if you follow a similar plan. This year, Rosh Hashanah will be September 8, and Yom Kippur September 16. A conversation with some Jewish friends or neighbors about their experience of a season of repentance may be a blessing on your Lent. Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

**Weekly Sacred Scripture Study Tuesday  
After 8:30am Mass In the Murray Center  
For more Info call:  
Annabelle Villegas 917-331-1312**

**In Honor of  
Deacon Stan, President Washington and  
President Lincoln's Birthdays the Rectory Office  
Will Be Closed on Monday!**

### **Purgatorial Society**



*New members enrolled for February 2021*

**Luis + Aida Parrales (Sarah Parrales)  
Carmela D'Andrea  
Dominick D'Andrea  
Christina + Federico Cadiente**

*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 10:30am Mass.. The stipend to enroll a loved one is \$25.00 . The names of those enrolled for the first month will be published in our bulletin.*

### **Floater and Smitty ... ...On Lenten Sacrifice**

If Lent only means giving up lollipops for 40 days, then you should reevaluate your concept of Lent. Here are a few good tips to make your Lent more productive:

1. **PRAY:** This Lent, try to pray more often. Avoid telling yourself that there is no time for prayer. If Jesus could die on a cross for you, then you can take 5 minutes and pray for others. Prayer can be done anywhere; home, work, school, the car, the shower, and in bed.
2. **FASTING:** Think how fortunate you are to be able to have 3 square meals a day. Now think about how unfortunate some people are who are lucky if they can find a snack a day. Fasting does not mean starving yourself, it simply means to eat less and offer it up to Jesus. You can also use the money you don't spend on food to donate to those less fortunate.
3. **ALMSGIVING:** For this season of Lent, try to think less of yourself and more of others. You could do more things around your home & community. Visiting the elderly and sick are a great way to start. Giving of our time is equally valuable. Volunteering will make us more aware of the needs of the poor and build solidarity with them.