

American Martyrs

Second Sunday of Lent

February 28, 2021



Parish Clergy

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

Sunday Assistants

Rev. Msgr. John J. Bracken
Rev. George R. Cowan
Rev. Emmanuel Nartey

Sunday Mass Schedule

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

Weekday Daily Mass is in Main
Church during the Lenten Season
8:30am Monday - Saturday

Holy Days See Bulletin For Schedule

Parish Staff

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

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
Telephone (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.

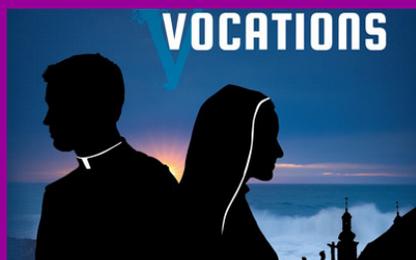
Be Vigilant of Child Abuse At All Times!

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

AMERICAN MARTYRS WEB ADDRESS

AMPARISH.ORG



Second Sunday of Lent – February 28, 2021
“It is good that we are here.” Could the Lord be calling you to proclaim His name as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? 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.

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

Dear faithful of American Martyrs, do you ever wonder "When We Don't Understand!"

I was never really good at Math. Maybe that, in part, accounts for my being a priest. Religion is neither mathematical or scientific. Perhaps that's why when it comes to our faith there are things we don't understand.

Take for example the Transfiguration. We find it in the Gospel of Matthew, Luke and (today) in Mark. But none of the gospels offer an explanation of its meaning. It was beyond the range of their experience and for that matter, beyond ours as well. In one sense, the Transfiguration is a total mystery, but in another it is part of life. We don't understand it, but it is one of many things we do not understand.

Do most of us know what electricity is, besides that it comes out of a socket and is turned on and off by a switch? Do we know how a brown cow who eats green grass gives white milk? There are many mysteries in life, including the Transfiguration. How do we deal with them? What do we do when we don't understand?

In these moments, it helps to have patience. By being patient and waiting a little while, we might be able to see more clearly. In the gospel, the disciples did not understand what Jesus meant when he spoke of rising from the dead. They kept discussing it, which may or may not have helped. But on that first Easter morning, the light dawned in more ways than one. By the power of God, Jesus rose from the dead and transcended human life and death. They may not have understood Jesus' words completely, but they were closer to understanding than before.

Think of our own experience growing up. When we were little we didn't always understand, much less agree with our parents. Why do homework when it is much more fun to play? Why should we eat vegetables when ice cream tastes so much better? Sometimes we thought we had the meanest parents ever!

Yet now, with the passage of time, we understand some things more that we didn't understand before. This doesn't mean our parents were always right, but they were right more times than not; even when we thought they were wrong. It was just a matter of being patient.

We may be puzzled by the Transfiguration or any number of things we don't understand; but one part of to-day's gospel is clear: the voice from the cloud saying "This is my Beloved Son. Listen to him." We can understand that and we can do it. Grappling with life's mysteries is a good thing. They help us to grow and to stretch our minds. We can get bogged down with mysteries and forget the simple truths. We won't comprehend all of the mysteries in life, but Jesus said "Love your enemies" and we can comprehend that. Jesus said "Forgive those who sin against you" and we understand that. Jesus said "Do unto others as you would have them do to you" and we get that.

When we don't understand, let's exercise a little patience and a little humility, take up the things we do understand and keep following Christ.

On the Lenten journey with you... ...Fr. Peter



**"Come Back To Me...
...With All Your Heart!"**

**Would You Like to Received
the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
Well, Monday March 8th, 15th or 22nd
are your Lucky Days!**

Kateri Chapel (Rectory) 7pm - 8:30pm

**Also Monday of Holy Week
is Reconciliation Monday
Schedule will be:
Kateri Chapel 9am-10:30am
and Main Church
3pm - 8pm**

L Turn away
E
N from sin
T



Baby Bottles for Life “Every Cent Helps”

Fr. John J. Murray
Knights of Columbus Council #14666
Lenten Project at American Martyrs

Help the Sisters of Life In their
Ministry to Unwed Mothers

Fill a Bottle (or more) with your spare change
and donate the change this Lent!

Return Bottles on Palm Sunday
or Good Friday to Church



KNOW THE MASS, ONE WORD AT A TIME

Photo © John Zick



Remember

Every Mass remembers the Death and Resurrection of Jesus, but not as you would expect. Most of our day-to-day talk about remembering really means recalling or bringing up something that

happened in the past. Our remembering at Mass is much, much different. It is not a matter of recall, but rather of making present—here and now—what we remember. The Mass doesn't just commemorate the Death and Resurrection of Jesus as a past event. The Mass makes this event present to us, right now, right here, in sign and sacrament. Our remembering in the Mass enables us to be present to him—right here and right now—as the self-sacrificing Lord who destroys death and restores life.

Each one of the Eucharistic prayers has an *anamnesis*, or a special prayer of remembering. So, for example, the priest prays in Eucharistic Prayer IV: “Therefore, O Lord, as we now celebrate the memorial of our redemption, we remember Christ's Death and his descent to the realm of the dead, we proclaim his Resurrection and his Ascension to your right hand. . . .” And in our prayer of remembering, we don't just recall Jesus, we meet him as the dying and rising Lord who draws us into new life.

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 the Fridays of Lent.
- † **FASTING:** All the faithful between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive are bound to fast on 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 keeping the
Lenten Fast

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

or contact 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.



#nybloodcenter

nybc.org

1.800.933.BLOOD

New York Blood Center

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, February 27th
5:00 pm: Donald + Lillian Borst (E.O.)

Sunday, February 28th
8:30 am: John Stenson (Farley Family)
10:30am: Dominic Pinto (Maryanne + John Pinto)
Patrick Zafferese (Family)
Norma Gumboc (Elmhurst Dialysis Staff)
12:30pm: The Faithful of American Martyrs

Monday, March 1st
Vocations to the Priesthood

Tuesday, March 2nd
The Teachers in our School of Religious Education

Wednesday, March 3rd
Margaret Meaney (Kump Family)

Thursday, March 4th
James Finnerty (Ray Fortune)

Friday, March 5th
Juana Rojas (Family)

Saturday, March 6th
8:30 am: The Children of American Martyrs

5:00 pm: Deceased Members of the
Smaildino + Graneri Families (Mary Ann + Greg)

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

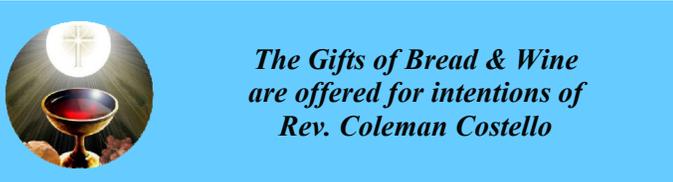
Catholic Charities Neighborhood Home Delivered Meals
Call 718-357-4903 for more information.

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 February 21, 2021
E-Giving: \$1,797.50
Collection: \$5,294.00
Total: \$7,091.50

Sunday, February 23, 2020: \$5,181.00

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



*The Gifts of Bread & Wine
are offered for intentions of
Rev. Coleman Costello*

REMEMBER THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Rosemary Scocca

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, Tricia Zafferese, Irene McGrath, Frances Burgess and Chistine Biondi

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

**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**

American Martyrs Columbiettes News

The American Martyrs Columbiettes will be selling Palm Crosses this glorious Lent Season. Please fill out the Pre-order Form below and kindly drop your order form along with payment in a sealed envelope addressed to the Columbiettes in the offering box at church. You may also contact **Deneille Loprete @ mkdance5@aol.com** or at (917) 414-3753.

The cost for each pre ordered "24" Palm Cross with ribbon will be \$12.00. All crosses can be picked up after Sunday Masses on March 21st, 2021. Crosses that are not pre ordered will be sold for \$18.00 each on Sunday March 21st, 2021.

Thank You in advance and please consider supporting the American Martyrs Columbiettes. All proceeds are donated to charities.

Palm Cross Pre-Order Form : Due By 3/14/21.

Name/Cell # _____ Crosses@\$12.00 _____
Total \$ _____



Do You Want To Fast This Lent?

In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.

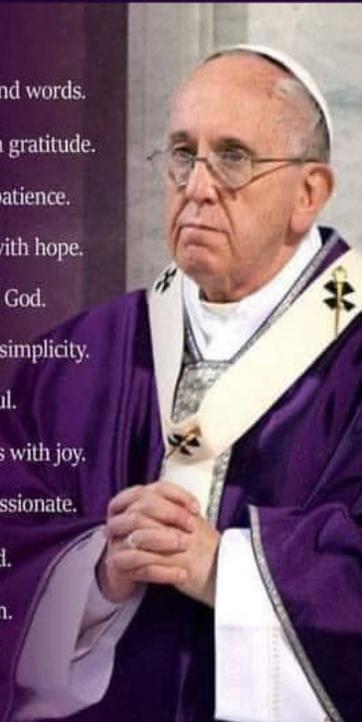
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words; be silent and listen.



Weekly Sacred Scripture Study

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

Floater and Smitty

"We're lost, but have a grand time!"

Floater: Never make snow angels in a dog park

Smitty: I'm hiring a group of whales to star in the new "Free Willy" film. It's a podcast

Floater: Authors, Composers and Poets have to be in the "Write" mood to create.

Smitty: Old mechanics never die. They just write their own Autobiographies!

Floater: I can't believe that the Highway Department called my brother a thief. But when I got home, all the signs were there.

Smitty: Was the invention of the light bulb the result of someone's bright idea?

Floater: You can't blame anyone else if you fall in your driveway. That's your own asphalt.

Smitty: The only thing Flat Earthers fear...is Sphere itself.

Floater: What is the difference between climate and weather? You can't weather a tree, but you can climate.

Smitty: One out of five people are just too tense.

Floater: I made some fish tacos last night. They just ignored them and swam away.

Smitty: To be frank with you, I'd have to change my name.