December 22, 2024 Fourth Sunday of Advent American Martyrs

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 an 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

Parents must speak to Deacon Stan one month in advance before the scheduled date.

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

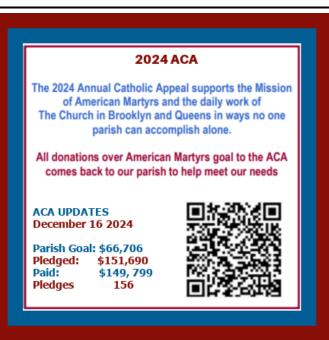
Call the Parish Office for information and appointment with a priest at least six months prior to the date you wish.

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

Pastors Advisory Board/Parish Council

Theresa Asche Anne Caruso Deacon Stanley Galazin John Limberg Ken MacPherson, Trustee Jillian Minarik Michael Mitts Edward Pearce Margaret Reyes Mary Ann Schreiber, Finance Council Maureen Shoule, Trustee Robert Shoule Johnny Sullivan Joseph Timpa



December 15, 2024 Sunday Collection

Online \$2,755.50 In-Pew \$7,600.00 Total \$10,355.50 Poor Box: \$82 Votive Candles: \$170

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens, a time to heal

Remember in your Prayers the Sick of American Martyrs

Msgr. John Keppler, Rosalinda Apostadero, Elizabeth Coppola, Jen Flynn Limberg, Denis Keane, James + Anne Kingston + Irene McGrath, Elsie & Frank Paukowits, Martin Thaila, Vijay Devassy, Anita Mascoli, John O'Brien, John Buglione, John Sheridan Jr., Tom Holloran, Arlene Scherne, Vincent Sheridan, Jessie Carlone, Jackson Monchal, Jeancarol Roach, Gloria Saavedra, Jack Goydas, John Bennett, Michael G. McLoone, Dave Tavella, Gloria Valdez, Patrick Kearney, Tom Dana, Roberto + Raquel Barrientos, Samantha Harris, Kalyan Sham, Mike Tramonte, Alexa Kropf, Dr. Renato Gega, Dr. Gilda Versales, Gracinda Silva, Steven Troutman, Anna Bischoff. Robert Galazin, Stephen Feit, Richard San Severino and Baby Charles B. Woods

(THE SICK WILL STAY ON LIST FOR 3 WEEKS AND THEN BE REMOVED UNLESS THERE IS A REQUEST FOR THE PERSON TO REMAIN ON THE PRAYER LIST FOR ANOTHER 3 WEEKS)

Mass Intentions Week of December 22nd + December 28th

8:30am

The Faithful of American Martyrs

10:30am

Dennis J. Asche (Requested by the Asche Family)

Theresa Marino (Requested by the Susan, Nina, Camile + Gail)

In Thanksgiving for Grace received (Requested by JoJo + Luey)

12:30pm

Antoinette Fleming (Requested by Elisa Fausto)

Monday 8:30am

Usha Chacko (birthday - Requested by the family)

Tuesday 8:30am

Marcella Larkin (Requested by the Rita)

See Page four (4) For Christmas Mass Intentions

Thursday 8:30am

Raul Stevenv Vargas (Requested by the Mom, Nilda)

Friday 8:30am

Adoracion + Alfredo Diaz (Requested by Delia + Family)

Saturday 8:30am Prayer/Communion Service:

Catholic War Veterans

Saturday 5pm

Brian Assa (Requested by the Ann Marie Saner)



There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens, A time to live and a time to die...

Agnes Walsh Rev. Daniel S. Murphy John D. Galanaugh

The Gifts of Bread +Wine In Thanksgiving for Mrs. Theresa Asche





The Gifts of Altar Sanctuary Candles Patrick + Joan Kearney (Requested by their Family)

PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS



Rev. LT. Mark Bristol, USN, PO3 John Schaefer - USCG TAO Sean Reiley—USN Raymond Esquilin, CW4 Lisa Johnston, WO 1 Crystal Robles 2nd Lt. Daniel Wolf, USAF SFC Sheldon Warren

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 22, 2024

Make known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith. " Do you have what it takes to make God known as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life?

> Contact the Vocation Office at Call the Vocation Office at (718) 827-2454 or email: vocations@diobrook.org





My Side of the Altar

Dear Advent People of God, How quickly our Advent Season gives way to Christmas morn later this week! Advent celebrates not only the coming of Jesus at Bethlehem, but the Lord coming into our lives – at this moment. Like a fine wine, I have saved this fantastic story for the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Please share with a friend. The author of this modern parable is the late Paul Harvey.

Christmas Story of the Man and the Birds

Now the man to whom I'm going to introduce you was not a scrooge; he was a kind, decent, mostly good man. Generous to his family, upright in his dealings with other people. But he just didn't believe all that incarnation stuff which the church proclaims at Christmas time. It just didn't make sense, and he was too honest to pretend otherwise. He just couldn't swallow the Jesus story, about God coming to earth as a human.

"I'm truly sorry to distress you, he told his wife, "but I'm not going with you and the children to church on Christmas Eve." He said he'd feel like a hypocrite. That he'd much rather just stay at home, but that he would wait up for them. And so, he stayed and they went to Midnight Mass.

Shortly after the family drove away in the car, snow began to fall. He went to the window to watch the flurries getting heavier and heavier and then went back to his fireside chair and began to read his newspaper. Minutes later he was startled by a thudding sound, then another, and then another. Sort of a thump or a thud. At first he thought someone must be throwing snowballs against his living room window.

But when he went to the front door to investigate, he found a flock of birds huddled miserably in the snow. They'd been caught in the storm and, in a desperate search for shelter, had tried to fly through his large landscape window. Well, he couldn't let the poor creatures lie there and freeze, so he remembered the barn where his children stabled their pony. That would provide a warm shelter, if he could direct the birds to it.

Quickly he put on a coat and galoshes and tramped through the deepening snow to the barn. He opened the doors wide and turned on a light, but the birds did not come in. He figured food would entice them in. So he hurried back to the house, fetched bread crumbs and sprinkled them on the snow, making a trail to the yellow-lighted, wide-open doorway of the stable. But to his dismay, the birds ignored the bread crumbs and continued to flap around helplessly in the snow.

He tried catching them. He tried shooing them into the barn by walking around them, waving his arms. Instead, they scattered in every direction, except into the warm, lighted barn. And then he realized that they were afraid of him. To them, he reasoned, I am a strange and terrifying creature. If only I could think of some way to let them know that they can trust me. That I am not trying to hurt them, but to help them. But how? Any move I make tends to frighten them, confuse them. They just won't follow me. They won't be led or shooed because they fear me. "If only I could be a bird," he thought to himself, "and mingle with them and speak their language. Then I could tell them not to be afraid. Than I could show them the way to the safe, warm barn.

But I would have to be one of them so they could see and hear and understand." At that moment, the church bells began to ring. The sound reached his ears above the sounds of the wind. And he stood there listening to the bells – Adeste Fidelis - listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas. And he sank to his knees in the snow.

And may I add, God became human so we could become divine! May we always know God's wonder, feel His warmth and share His love.

Christmas Blessings and Joy, Fr. Peter





Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading: *Micah* 5:1-4 The ruler of Israel is promised to come from Bethlehem.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19* A prayer for God's salvation

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10 Through his obedience to God's will, Christ consecrated all.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 1:39-45* Mary visits Elizabeth, who sings praise to Mary and her child.

Background on the Gospel Reading

On this the last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before his birth. The Gospel turns our attention from the ministry of John the Baptist to the events that preceded John the Baptist's birth. The story of John the Baptist and his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, are reported only in Luke's Gospel. Luke pairs the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus, establishing John's early connection to the Messiah.

Our Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. If we were to continue to read the verses that follow in Luke's Gospel, we would hear Mary respond to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel.

In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy.

It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.

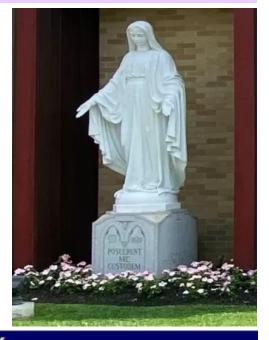
Traveling Madonna within our Parish American Martyrs Rosary Society

The purpose of this Virgin Mary statue is to bring the graces of Fatima and Our Lady's message of peace and hope.

For the past 9 years, the Rosary Society has been passing the statue of Mary through the parish. In this difficult time, as we pray for peace, anyone interested in joining the rotation, please call Margaret Reyes at 718 217-7110.

In these unsettled times, praying the Rosary is important. Please join us on the first Sunday of the month at 10 o'clock to pray as a group.

All welcome to host the statue!



GLUTEN SENSITIVITY

We have gluten-free hosts. Just identify yourself before Mass begins so we can ensure your reception of the Blessed Sacrament.

American Martyrs Christmas Mass Schedule

5pm Christmas Eve 12 Midnight 8:30am 10:30am 12:30pm

AMERICAN MARTYRS SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

JANUARY 1, 2025

5PM VIGIL MASS DECEMBER 31, 2024

8:30AM JANUARY 1, 2024

AN AUTISM CHRISTMAS

Twas the night before Christmas.and all through the house...

The noises were different, with more people about. I don't like not knowing, what to expect I need my routine and space to reflect.

I want to keep eating, my usual food Not talking to visitors, doesn't mean I'm rude. I love all my presents and having no school, But it can feel overwhelming, with new rituals and rules.

I may not react, like other children do But I really am grateful, for my presents from you. So be gentle with me, be patient and kind And remember your world, looks different to mine.

AMERICAN MARTYRS NEW MASS SCHUDLE BEGINS THE WEEKEND OF JANUARY 4/5

SATURDAY JANUARY 4, 2025 3PM CONFESSIONS 4PM VIGIL MASS

SUNDAY JANUARY 5, 2025 9AM 11:30AM



Christmas Blessings "The Gift of Presence"

Christmas would not be the same without presents, no matter the size or number. Yet even more important is the gift of "presence." It is so important to be present to the people we love the most and who are touchable close, yet sometimes get the least from us. What might make this a memorable Christmas is our being more present to the people in our lives. Give the gift of presence and be present to those in our circle of love. Be flesh, emotion, laughter, imagination, generosity, listening, understanding, caring, blessing to special people we call family and friends.

Let the Word become flesh in us, so that we might step into life in new ways that can make life itself a Christmas gift every day.

On behalf of Deacon Stan, Fr. Francis, Fr. Emmanuel, Fr. Dominic, Msgr. Doran, Msgr. Noone, and the entire staff, we wish you and your family the joy and peace of the God of love, peace, compassion, mercy and justice that Jesus' birth made present to us all. We are truly blessed to serve all of you here at American Martyrs.

Merry Christmas! Fr. Peter



DJJ Antonio returns!!

New Year's Eve Party

Hot Buffet, Dancing, Beverages, BYOB Dessert, Champagne Toast

8:00 PM TO 1:00 AM

HOSTED BY AMERICAN MARTYRS COLUMBIETTES

79-43 BELL BOULEVARD BAYSIDE, NY 11364 (Sullivan Center - church parkling lot entrance)

Early Bird Special available - buy before December 4th

\$65 (AGES 15+), \$30 (AGES 6-12), FREE (0-5)

Bought between December 4th - December 23rd**

RSVP TO FRAN BY DECEMBER 23RD For more Info LISSIETU@AOL.COM / CALL OR TEXT 347-338-0595

American Martyrs Columbiettes - New Year's Eve Tear off – 8pm to 1am Tickets Purchased		<u>Make checks payable</u> <u>to:</u>	
	Before Dec. 4 th Adults \$65	Dec. 4 th thru Dec. 23 ^{rd ##} Adults \$75	American Martyrs Columbiettes
First and Last Name	Child \$30 Child \$35 Phone#		Mail cash/checks to: American Martyrs Church
# of Adults (ages 15+)	# of Children (ages 6-14)	# of Infants (0-5; FREE)	c/o Fran for NYE 79-43 Bell Boulevard
**Tickets not sold at	the door. Date:	Total Enclosed: \$	Queens, NY 11364

Christmas Season Litany

Blessed are you, Lord God. Blessed are you forever. Holy is your name. Blessed are you forever. You have sent your Son to be one of us, our brother. Blessed are you forever. You chose Mary the Virgin to be his mother. Blessed are you forever. You love your people with deepest love. Blessed are you forever. You have sent your Son to save us from sin. Blessed are you forever. Great is your mercy for your people. Blessed are you forever. You fill your children with joy and peace. Blessed are you forever. You call us to praise your name. Blessed are you forever. Look with love upon your holy Church. Blessed are you forever. Send the Spirit of your Son into our hearts. Blessed are you forever. Let us bring glory and praise to your name. Blessed are you forever. Through Jesus Christ your Son. Blessed are you forever. And in the love of your Holy Spirit. Blessed are you forever. Amen

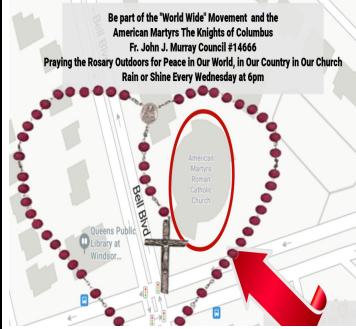


Sacred Heart of Jesus Bayside invites parents/guardians with children/ adults with all special needs or IEP's to join us to share and exchange ideas in an informal setting.

> For information contact Mrs. Lyons at 718-631-1307 or email at shreligiousedbayside@vahoo.com.

Meetings are at 10:00 AM in the Church Hall on the following dates:

Thursday January 9 **Tuesday February 11** Wednesday March 12



Holy Family Mass Schedule

8:30am Monday - Saturday

Sunday Schedule 5pm Vigil Mass 7:30am + 9am + 10:30am + 12 Noon + 5pm



www.holyfamilyfm.org 175-20 74th Avenue Fresh Meadows, N.Y. 11366

(P): 718-969-2448 (F): 718-591-6166 (E): rectory@holyfamilyfm.org

THE FOUR WEEKS OF ADVENT

During the first two weeks of Advent we light the first two purple candles. The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. On this day we celebrate we that our waiting for the birth of Jesus on Christmas day is almost over. Rose is a liturgical color that is used to signify joy, so we light the single pink candle on the third Sunday of Advent.

Then on the fourth Sunday of Advent, the final purple candle is lit to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait expectantly for the soon-coming birth of the King of Kings. Traditionally, each of the four Advent candles have a deeper meaning which you can read more about in many Advent prayer books that are available.

The 1st Sunday of Advent symbolizes Hope with the "Prophet's Candle" reminding us that Jesus is coming.

The 2nd Sunday of Advent symbolizes Faith with the "Bethlehem Candle" reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. The 3rd Sunday of Advent symbolizes Joy with the "Shepherd's Candle" reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.

The 4th Sunday of Advent symbolizes Peace with the "Angel's Candle" reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."



The Rev. John J. Murray Knights of Columbus Cell Phones for Soldiers



The collection netted 66 phones / tablets, including 22 BRAND NEW phones, donated by one kind hearted parishioner.

The donations will help both active troops as well as veterans in need. Thank you to all who contributed. And... ...See you next November.

> American Martyrs Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God January 1, 2025

5pm Vigil Mass on December 31, 2024

8:30am January 1, 2024

AMERICAN MARTYRS THANKS MICHAEL CHIMENTI + JILLIAN MINARIK + JOHN SULLIVAN



FOR THEIR EVENING OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS

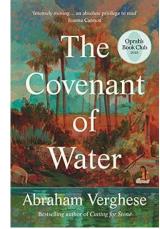
Schedule for the Lectors and Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

SATURDAY/SUNDAY DECEMBER 28/29

Lectors 5pm Vigil: John Sullivn 8:30am: Michael Shoule 10:30am: Valerie Day 12:30 Getulio Cury

Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion 5pm: Mary Ann and Gregg Schreiber + Lillian Santos 8:30: Donna Sosna + Stephen Sica + Fortune Tramonte 10:30am: Olivia Miranda + Diana Iorio + Anne Caruso 12:30pm: Olivia Miranda, Bernie Liu

Next Meeting of the Book of the Month Club Will Take Place in the Murray Center on Monday Evening January 27 at 7pm



The Book of the Month is Abraham Verghese's <u>The Covenant of Water</u>



Acolyte/Altar Servicers Schedule

SATURDAY/SUNDAY DECEMBER 21/22

Saturday 5pm Vigil Jose + Landon + Sophia

Sunday 8:30AM : Julianna + Vincent + Omar

Sunday 10:30AM: Lilly + Edward + Katarina

Sunday 12:30PM: Aya + Madison + Brooke

Rosary Societys Altar Linen Schedule

December 22: Carol Fortune December 29: Nancy Marchi January 5: Nancy Hill January 12: Mary Galazin January 19: Carol Fortune January 26: Nancy Marchi February 2: Nancy Hill February 9: Mary Galazin February 16: Carol Fortune

If you are unable to do a week please call Carol 718 + 631 + 0896

Father Vincent Capodanno

May God who has offered healing and strength through the hands of the His only Son, Our Lord, and through Christ's many servants grant me the favor of His healing hand through the intercession of His servant, **Father Vincent Capodanno**, priest, missionary, and chaplain, who always sought to heal and comfort the wounded and dying on the field of battle.



American Martyrs Catholic War Veterans Post 1772 ON GOING RECRUITMENT



If you served in the United States Military PLEASE Consider joining our Post. FOR MORE INFO CALL RAY 917-515-9102



The Presentation of The Gifts at Mass



Before Mass each day the gifts of bread and wine are placed at the break of American Martyrs. If you are at Mass and the mass is being celebrated in memory of a loved one please feel free to sit near the gifts and bring them to the altar, where they will become the Body and Blood of Christ. If you are at Mass and no one gets up to bring the gifts to the altar, please feel free to bring them to the altar yourself. This is a parish celebration and we are all parishioners.





American Martyrs Rectory Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9am -12 noon + 1pm - 4pm

Friday and Saturday 9am - 12 noon + 1pm - 3pm

After Hours by Appointment

Marguerite's Pantry - Saturday morning 12/21

Volunteers are needed at Marguerite's Pantry at Our Lady of Fatima RC Church, 25-02 80th St. in East Elmhurst. Set-up begins at 9:00 AM which is when the greatest number of volunteers are needed. Many hands make light work so please just show up if you can and when you can for as long as you can.

> Monthly Mass For The Helpers of God's Precious Infants

8am Saturday December 22 Our Lady of Sorrows 104-11 37th Avenue Corona, NY 11368

JOIN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS JOIN THE COLUMBIETTES FR. JOHN J. MURRAY/AMERICAN MARTYRS FR. JOHN J. MURRAY/AMERICAN MARTYRS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL # 14666 **COLUMBIETTES COUNCIL # 14666** For more information Email: KofCAM14666@gmail.com For more information call Anne Caruso 347 - 626 - 9802 Website: KofCAM.Weebly.com "A CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN" Thoughts as you prepare for Christmas with Floater and Smitty Looking to Help??? Bridge to Life Needs Diapers! Floater: I'll be working up until noon on the day of my funeral **Smitty**: Hey, if anyone knows how to fix some broken hinges, my door is always open Floater: When I was young I stunk at golf, but now after years of dedication, practice and coaching I'm no longer young. Smitty: I wrote a book about basements. It made the Best Cellars list. Floater: I dig, you dig, we dig, he dig, she dig, they dig......It's not a beautiful poem, but it's pretty deep. Smitty: The invisible man married the invisible women their kids are nothing to look at either. Floater: I went to a Mary Poppins themed restaurant last night. Super cauliflower cheese, but lobster was atrocious. Smitty: Why was the Mathematician late for work? He took the rhombus. Floater: Theiyr're! Take that, grammar police! Smitty: Whenever it rains I just stand at the window looking kind Please Leave Diapers @ Entrance to American Martyrs of sad, maybe one day my wife will let me in. Floater: I've starting telling everyone about the benefits of eating dried grapes. It's all about raisin awareness. Smitty: I once thought I was indecisive but now I'm really sure. Y FOR Floater: If swimming is good for your figure, how do you explain whales? ARIANS Smitty: I never unwrap my candy canes. I like to keep them in mint condition. omeo, pray for our future priests Floater: It's been Scientifically proven that LAZY Surgeons can absolutely be called ... Doctor Dolittles. **Follow Bishop** Smitty: Please don't rub avacados on your eyes You could get quacoma! Robert Brennan Floater: Autocorrect has become my worst enema. on Facebook **3 DAYS TILL CHRISTMAS** Click here or search Bishop Robert Brennan on Facebook. **10 DAYS TILL NEW YEAR** bishopofbklyn 26 DAYS TILL BILL BUZZONE'S BIRTHDAY

FIRST PLACE

CPA award winne

Best Facebook Account – Diocesan Bishop



50 DAYS TILL PITCHERS + CATCHERS