

January 19, 2025
2nd Week in Ordinary Time
American Martyrs
Holy Hour for Life



Join the American Martyrs'
Right to Life Ministry
Praying for The Right to Life
of the Unborn Child

7pm Wednesday January 22

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

2024 ACA

The 2024 Annual Catholic Appeal supports the Mission of American Martyrs and the daily work of The Church in Brooklyn and Queens in ways no one parish can accomplish alone.

All donations over American Martyrs goal to the ACA comes back to our parish to help meet our needs

ACA UPDATES January 13 2025

Parish Goal: \$66,706
Pledged: \$155,542
Paid: \$154,732
Pledges 161



"I join the March for Life in Washington with my prayers. May God help us respect all life, especially the most vulnerable."

— Pope Francis

Remember in your Prayers the Sick of American Martyrs

Msgr. John Keppler, Rosalinda Apostadero, Elizabeth Coppola, Jen Flynn Limberg, Denis Keane, James + Anne Kingston, 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, 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, Anna Bischoff, Robert Galazin, Stephen Feit, Richard San Severino, Jeremiah J. Doran, Vita Mazzola, Steven Troutman and Baby Charlie 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 January 19th + January 25th

9am

Brian Assa (Requested by Anne Marie Sanfier)

11:30am

Angelina DiCicco (Requested by her family)

Phylliss Yocco (Requested by Maureen + Alison Adrienn)

Agnes Walsh (Requested by Lorraine Thomas)

Monday 8:30am

Bruno + Rose Frustari (Requested by Cecilia & Fasto Frustari)

Tuesday 8:30am

Adele Valdez (Requested by Gloria Valdez)

Wednesday 8:30am

Gina Chacko (Requested by her Family)

Thursday 8:30am

Agnes Walsh (Requested by Carl + Margaret Reyes)

Friday 8:30am

Agnes Walsh (Requested by Frank + Elsie Paukowits)

Saturday 8:30am Communion/Prayer Service

Catholic War Veterans

Saturday 4pm

Maria Meyer (Requested by the Kump Family)



**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...**

**Sr. Patricia Agnes Bracken, DW
Srimal Warnakurasuris**

***The Gifts of Bread + Wine
In loving memory of***

Jack Bills

(Requested by Ann Marie)



***The Gifts of Altar Sanctuary Candles
Albert Vaalery***

(Requested by Mom)

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



**Wedding Feast in Cana -- January 19, 2025
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

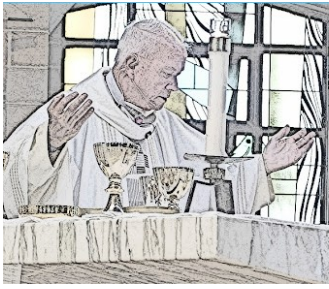


**"There are a variety of gifts, but the same Spirit." Is the
Holy Spirit leading you to share your gifts as a priest,
deacon, or in the consecrated life ?**

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



This Could be you



My Side of the Altar

Dear People of God...

...Water Into Wine

Grapes have grown in the soil of Palestine for many centuries. They have been used in many ways but especially for wine. The Bible has always associated wine with joy and abundance. It has been seen as a gift from God that gladdens the heart, but unlike other cultures, drunkenness was considered disgraceful.

In Jesus' time a wedding was no small event. Those invited were not just family and relatives but also members of nearby communities. These events would take place over several days and would include banquets and parties as well as the ceremony itself. It's no surprise, therefore, when Jesus uses the example of a wedding feast in referring to the Kingdom of God. This was something he learned from Isaiah who, as we hear today, drew on the wedding analogy to picture God's love and commitment to His people.

It may have been that Mary had a special role in these wedding celebrations which would explain concern about the wine. Hospitality was important, not only in the Jewish culture, but in all the cultures of that region. Also Jesus' first response to his mother may surprise us. While it may seem to us a bit short and lacking in compassion and perhaps respect, Jesus' first focus was always on God his father. He was always absorbed with his mission and destiny and not using his powers to "fix things." The "tyranny of urgency" is not new to our world — Jesus dealt with it as well. Wasn't that one of the ways Satan tempted him in the desert? Jesus wanted his miracles, signs as they are called here, to point to something beyond themselves.

What did this miracle point to? The fact that the water in the stone jars was used for ritual washing is a clue. Another was the fact that this wine was better than what had been served before. This miracle pointed to the richness of the new kingdom that Jesus was bringing about. It would be vintage wine in contrast to plain water.

But what does this miracle mean to us? Can Jesus change our water into wine? The wine of our lives can seem watered down, flat and perhaps even bitter. We may not despair over it, but we may feel we have to resign ourselves to things as they are. Are there ways where Jesus offers more hope?

First, we hope that we might have a more "first hand" experience with God. We might become weary if our experience of God is just our "historical" God. What we yearn for is the "living" God who lives in the soul of each one of us, with whom we may have lost touch. Perhaps this "new wine" can bring us back.

Second, we hope that our gifts may become blessings. When we don't feel particularly gifted, it's a sign that our self-esteem is lacking. All of us are gifted. We can't take credit for it—these gifts are God-given. When we find a way for these gifts to benefit others, these gifts become blessings, not just for others, but for us. When our gifts serve God and others, our water becomes wine.

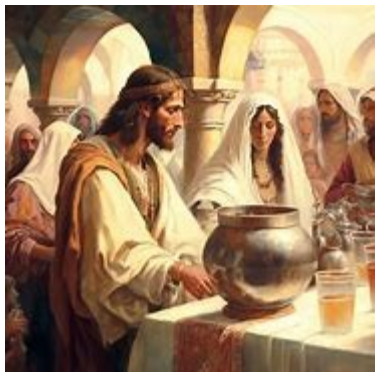
Third, we hope in Christ to fulfill our personal destinies. Our first and unending task in life is to "grow up" — to become who we truly are. We find the meaning of our lives in loving God with our whole being and our neighbor as ourselves. In that way, we discover that what God has in mind for us will exceed all of our hopes and dreams.

Peace
Fr. Peter

January 12, 2025

Online \$1,385.50 In-Pew \$3,854.00 Total \$5,239.50 Poor Box: \$70.00 Votive Candles: \$136.00

The Rectory Office Will Be Closed on Monday in Observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Birthday



First Reading: *Isaiah 62:1-5*

God delights in Israel and will rejoice as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalms 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10*

A song in praise of God's marvelous deeds

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 12:4-11*

All spiritual gifts originate from the same Spirit.

Gospel Reading: *John 2:1-11*

Jesus performs his first sign at a wedding feast in Cana.

Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday we begin the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. For many Sundays in this lectionary cycle (Cycle C), our readings will be taken from the Gospel of Luke. Occasionally, however, we will read from John's Gospel. This is true of today's Gospel reading, which describes the beginning of Jesus' ministry and his first miracle.

To situate today's reading within the context of John's Gospel, we note that John's report of this event follows Jesus' call of his first disciples. John tells us that Jesus and his disciples were invited to this wedding at Cana, as was Jesus' mother, Mary. There is no parallel report of this miracle at Cana in the Synoptic Gospels.

In the Church's liturgical history, the wedding feast of Cana is closely associated with the baptism of the Lord and the adoration of the infant Jesus by the Wise Men. In this context, the sign Jesus performs at the wedding feast is celebrated as an epiphany or a manifestation of Jesus' divinity. Yet awareness of Jesus' impending passion and death is ever present in John's Gospel. Even in this report of Jesus' first sign, the language used anticipates Jesus' passion. When Jesus says to his mother that his hour has not yet come, he protests against her wishes in language that John will use again when reporting Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. When introducing the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet, John writes that Jesus knew that his hour had come. In John's Gospel, Jesus is very much in command and aware of all that is to happen to him.

Here, as elsewhere in John's Gospel, Mary is not mentioned by name, but is referred to instead as the mother of Jesus. Mary is influential in Jesus' first sign. She will also be present at his Crucifixion, a witness to the final manifestation of his divinity.

John's Gospel describes seven signs that indicate Jesus' identity to his disciples. John never speaks of these signs as miracles because their importance is not in the deed that Jesus performs but in what these deeds indicate about Jesus' identity. Here, as when John describes the other signs, the disciples are said to begin to believe, but no mention is made as to whether the other wedding guests are even aware of what has happened.

Marriage and wedding feasts are metaphors used in Scripture to describe God's salvation and the Kingdom of God. Here at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, John's Gospel seeks to establish that Jesus is going to re-interpret and fulfill Yahweh's promise to Israel. Jesus establishes the New Covenant. A hint about what this New Covenant will be like is made evident in the deed that Jesus performs. Asked to do something to address the awkward situation that the absence of wine at a wedding feast would create, Jesus' miracle produces vast quantities of wine—six jars holding thirty gallons each are filled to overflowing with choice wine.

This lavish response to a simple human need is a vision for us of the abundance of God's kingdom. It challenges us to respond generously when confronted with human need today. We respond as best we can, fully confident that God can transform our efforts, bringing the Kingdom of God to fulfillment among us.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a social activist and Baptist minister who played a key role in the American civil rights movement from the mid-1950s until his assassination in 1968. King sought equality and human rights for African Americans, the economically disadvantaged and all victims of injustice through peaceful protest. He was the driving force behind watershed events such as the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the 1963 March on Washington, which helped bring about such landmark legislation as the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 and is remembered each year on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a U.S. federal holiday.



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
SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE**

**3PM SATURDAY CONFESSIONS
4PM SATURDAY VIGIL**

**9AM SUNDAY
AND
11:30AM SUNDAY**



**Annual Christmas Mitten Drive Is Drawing To An End Next
Weekend, January 26, 2025**



**Thank You for your "gently" used or new adult & children
Gloves, Mittens, Scarves, Hats to warm those in need.**



The Parishes of Deanery Q5

will provide round trip bus transportation to Washington, D.C.

Friday, January 24th, 2025

Bus is leaving from American Martyrs' R.C. Church

79-43 Bell Blvd., Oakland Gardens, NY 11364

Leaving at 6:00 AM

To Register and save your seat:

Please use the weblink below or the QR code

<https://stkevinchurch1.flocknote.com/signup/149779>



Volunteers Needed to Participate in Corporal Work of Mercy **Feed the Hungry**



Saint Marguerite d'Youville
Foundress of the Grey Nuns

Marguerite's Pantry at Our Lady of Fatima Parish
2538 80th St, East Elmhurst, NY www.margueritespantry.org

Saturday morning February 8th from 9:00AM until 1:30PM

Future Saturday dates 2025: March 8th, April 12th, May 10th, June 14th, July 19th

*For more information contact us at kofc14666fm@gmail.com www.kofcam.weebly.com

Come Pray with Us

Helpers of God's Precious Infants

<http://www.helpersbrooklynny.org/>

Upcoming Prayer Vigils - 2025

****each prayer vigil is followed by a Rosary procession and prayer outside of a local abortion provider**

This is not a demonstration nor protest, just peaceful prayer. 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.

- Saturday January 25th - 8:00 AM mass-Our Lady of Sorrows, 104-11 37th Ave, Corona
- Saturday February 15th - 7:30 AM mass-St Catherine of Genoa, 520 Linden Ave, Brooklyn
- Saturday March 15th - 7:30 AM mass- Our Lady of the Cenacle, 136-06 87th Ave, Richmond Hill
 - Saturday April 12th - 8:00 AM mass-St Charles Borromeo, 31 Sidney Pl, Brooklyn
- Saturday May 31st - 7:30 AM mass-Presentation of the BVM, 88-19 Parsons Blvd, Jamaica
- Saturday June 28th - 8:00 AM mass-Our Lady of Sorrows, 104-11 37th Ave, Corona



You are called to stand up for life! To respect and defend the mystery of life always and everywhere, including the lives of unborn babies, giving real help and encouragement to mothers in difficult situations. You are called to work and pray against abortion.

— Pope John Paul II —

Respect Life Ministry at American Martyrs

<https://kofcam.weebly.com/respect-life.html>

Drive for the Troops

American Martyrs Church + Catholic War Veterans Post 1772

The Catholic War Veterans will be collecting all items to send to our troops overseas on Saturday and Sunday, February 1st + 2nd at all Masses at the doors of the Church



List of Items Needed:

Personal Items

Razors
Shaving items
Shampoo + Conditioner
Deodorant
Soap or Body Wash
Toothbrush
Toothpaste
Mouth Wash + Dental Floss
Sun Block
Chap Stick
Lotion
Hand Sanitizer
Powder
Cotton Balls
Pain Reliever's
Cold Medicine

Fun and Games

Disposable Camera
Flying Discs
Jump Rope
CD + DVD's
Puzzles
Deck of Cards
Dominos
Paperback Books
Comic Books
Books

Food Items

Pre-Sweetened Powder Drink Mixes
Canned or Dried Fruit
Tuna and Chicken (Cans or Pouches)
Beef Jerky
Single Servings of Cereal
Instant Coffee
Tea Bags
Microwave Popcorn
Sardines
Instant Oatmeal
Granola Bars
Crackers
Spices
Hard Candy
Gum
Soup Cans
Nuts + Sunflower Seeds
Single Serving of Chips

Practical Items

Bandanas
Batteries
International Phone Cards
Mini Fans
Hand Warmers
Small Flashlights
Stamps
Paper + Envelopes
Pens + Pencils



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 shreligiousdbayside@yahoo.com.

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

Tuesday February 11

Wednesday March 12

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



Every Day in the Kateri Chapel in Rectory

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@holymfamilyfm.org

RIGHT TO LIFE



AMERICAN MARTYRS

AMERICAN MARTYRS RIGHT TO LIFE MINISTRY

HOLY HOUR

FOR LIFE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22 AT 7PM

AS WE PRAY FOR

THE RIGHT TO LIFE OF THE UNBORN CHILD



Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope A VISIBLE GOD

We find it difficult to convey ideas to people unless we can actually show them something, demonstrate what we mean. God, who is invisible and truly beyond human understanding, apparently faces the same difficulty. People want to see, not just listen to an idea. So God gave us Jesus Christ, God made visible in the world.

During these past weeks we have seen how Jesus was revealed as an infant to the shepherds and the magi, and then began his adult public life at his baptism by John. Today's Gospel reading tells us of his first sign, providing wine for the wedding guests at Cana.


Of course, even Jesus, God made visible, was not always easily understood in his own day, nor is he even now. So we have to ponder what we see: the poverty and simplicity of his birth, his humility and openness before John the Baptist, his kindness and compassion toward people in their ordinary problems, such as running short of wine at a wedding. Yet it is in coming to know Jesus that we come to know God. Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co

Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn
My Car Went **OVER \$750,000 SINCE 2014**
DONATE YOUR AUTO
MONEY GOES BACK TO YOUR LOCAL PARISH
• IRS Tax Deduction • Free Towing
Any Condition • Any Model • Running or Not
718-491-2525
Visit Us at svdpauto-brooklynqueens.org

**Out of respect & courtesy for
our Liturgy and
for your fellow
parishioners,
we ask that
you please
SILENCE
your cell phones
in church.**
Thank you!



FEAST DAY OF ST. BRIGID OF IRELAND

St. James Cathedral Basilica
(250 Cathedral Place, Brooklyn, NY 11201)
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2025
1pm Mass
Followed By:
Irish Cultural Performances



Join Bishop Robert J. Brennan at
the **FIRST** Irish Apostolate celebration
of the Feast of Saint Brigid of Ireland

THE IRISH APOSTOLATE
NEW YORK

**Schedule for the Lectors and
Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
SATURDAY/SUNDAY JANUARY 25/26**

Lectors

4pm Vigil: John Sullivan

9am: Valerie Day

11:30am: Diana Iorio

Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

4pm: Mary Ann & Gregg Schreiber + Lillian Santos

9am: Theresa Asche + Fortune Tramonte
Olivia Miranda + Steven Caruso

11:30am: Terry Marchia, Johanna Zafferese,
Maureen Henry

**Acolyte/Altar Servicers Schedule
SATURDAY/SUNDAY JANUARY 25/26**

Saturday 4pm VIGIL

Julianna + Omar + Vincent

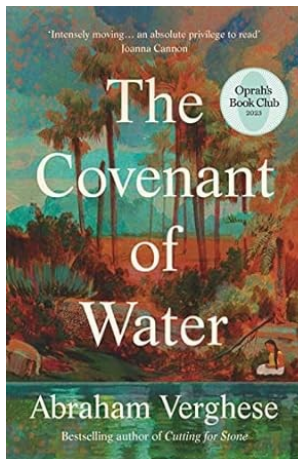
Sunday 9AM

Edward + Katarina + Lilly

Sunday 11:30AM

Brooke + Madison + Aya

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



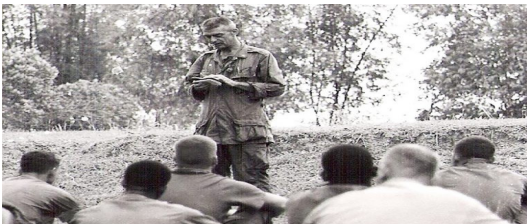
**The Book of the Month is
Abraham Verghese's
The Covenant of Water**

**Rosary Society's
Altar Linen Schedule**



January 19: Carol Fortune
January 26: Nancy Marchi
February 2: Nancy Hill
February 9: Mary Galazin
February 16: Carol Fortune
February 23: Nancy Marchi
March 2: Nancy Hill
March 9: Mary Galazin
March 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



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The cause of church unity is commended to Christians for prayer and action every year around this time. This week is not so much to focus on the many divisions within the Christian family, but on bonds of faith and mission. Even though Christians have always shown an inclination to fracture, spin off, and mutate into new expressions, recent history shows some new points of convergence and agreement. Catholics are more firmly rooted in the word of God, for example, and many Protestants are more likely to celebrate Communion than in years past. Some denominations are merging and pooling resources, and people from various traditions are collaborating on projects.

The call of this week is to be mindful of the diversity of our traditions and customs while treasuring what we hold in common. The old advice to lighten up is good medicine, because sometimes our differences are delightful and amusing. If someone says, Let us pray, a Catholic might close the eyes, bow the head and fold hands; a Protestant reach out and clasp hands with the person in the next chair; and someone belonging to an Orthodox tradition might stand up with eyes wide open. Each has taken a different path, but the goal is always the same. This is a week not for focusing on the well-worn paths of divergence, but for mutual delight in a common goal.—James Field, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

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



MOVIES to watch with your KIDS



Are There Any Good Movies To Watch???

Movies, music, television, and the Internet are the main sources of entertainment for your children. There is a lot of inappropriate material that their eyes and ears can pick up, so talk with your children about what is appropriate entertainment for them. If you are worried about what your children could be seeing or hearing, take advantage of parental blockage systems on your cable and internet systems.

Use the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Movie Review website as your guide for what movies are appropriate.

www.catholicnews.com/movies

**BE A PART OF THE WORLD WIDE MOVEMENT
AND JOIN THE AMERICAN MARTYRS
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
FR. JOHN J. MURRAY COUNCIL #14666**

**AS WE PRAY THE ROSARY OUTDOORS FOR
PEACE IN OUR WORLD, OUR COUNTRY AND IN
OUR CHURCH**



**RAIN OR SHINE
EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6PM**



Jubilee 2025

Jubilee Year 2025 Below are excerpts from an excellent article about the Jubilee Year 2025. It was written by Fr. Joseph Gibino, who is both the Vicar for Evangelization and Catechesis for the Diocese of Brooklyn and the Administrator of the parish of St. James Cathedral-Basilica. The complete article appeared in the St. James parish bulletin for December 22, 2024. Note that the article mentions Pope Francis' December 24 opening Ceremony in Rome and Bishop Brennan's two December 29 Opening Masses in Brooklyn, which have already taken place as scheduled.

"Pope Francis has called for a Jubilee of Hope in 2025, a significant event for the Catholic Church that aims to inspire and renew faith among believers worldwide. This Jubilee, officially proclaimed through the papal bull "Spes Non Confudit" ("Hope Does Not Disappoint"), began with the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve 2024 and conclude on January 6, 2026. We here in the Diocese of Brooklyn began our celebrations on December 29, 2024 with a special Jubilee Mass celebrated by Bishop Brennan at 11 AM, a procession to St. Joseph's Co-Cathedral, and a special Jubilee Mass in Spanish at 1:30 PM.

The Jubilee of Hope is rooted in the tradition of Holy Years, which occur every 25 years, offering a time for spiritual renewal, pilgrimage, and the reception of special graces. Pope Francis has emphasized that this Jubilee is particularly focused on hope, a theme he believes is crucial in today's world, which is often marked by despair and uncertainty. In his proclamation, Pope Francis highlighted the importance of hope as a transformative force. He urged Catholics to become "pilgrims of hope," spreading this message through their actions and words. The Pope's vision for the Jubilee includes not only spiritual renewal but also practical steps towards peace and reconciliation.

The Pope's message is clear: hope is not just a passive feeling but an active commitment to building a better world. Throughout the Jubilee year, various events and activities will be organized to foster this spirit of hope. Dioceses around the world are encouraged to hold special Masses, pilgrimages, and other religious observances.

In conclusion, the Jubilee of Hope proclaimed by Pope Francis is a powerful reminder of the enduring importance of hope in our lives. It calls on all of us to renew our faith, engage in acts of mercy and justice, and spread the message of hope to a world in need. Let us take to heart the Pope's call to be tangible signs of hope, working together to build a future filled with peace, love, and joy."

Tuition Assistance for Catholic Elementary Schools 2025 - 2026 School Year

Applications for Tuition Assistance for Catholic Elementary Schools (Grades K through 8) in the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens For the 2025 + 2026 Academic Year is now open.

For more information, go to: www.futursineducation.org/ or call
Diocesan Futures in Education Office at 718 + 965 + 7340



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time: Flipped-out Pharisees

The Gospel reading for this Sunday is not only the first miracle in John's Gospel, it is also John's first mention of Jesus' mother. I used to find it odd that Jesus addressed her as "Woman." I can't imagine my Dad letting me get away with that. But in that time the word was more respectful; it could even be affectionate. (The last time Jesus speaks to his mother--John 19:26--he also calls her "Woman." He certainly wasn't being disrespectful on the cross.) Jesus does help as his mother requested, but he does so in a way that doesn't draw attention to himself and also is a lesson about God's love.

You have probably heard how the Jewish people in Jesus' time performed purification rituals before eating anything. The cleansings were a sign that they wanted to be like God, completely free from sin. Eventually, it came to mean that you could not approach God until you cleansed yourself. Jesus used the miracle to show us a different way of understanding holiness. Jesus could have made the wine in bottles or wineskins to show that it was new. But he used the "six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings" (John 2:6). That meant that once they were full of wine, no one could wash themselves from the jars. I wonder how many Pharisees flipped out when they saw that.

The point is that no one can cleanse themselves. We don't purify ourselves in order to come to God--we come to God to be purified. God is the only one who can make us holy. God offers this to sinners especially, because sinners who know they need forgiveness are the only ones to receive it. Not because God excludes the rest. Those who don't think they are sinners or don't think they can be forgiven won't ask for it. God never forces mercy on anyone. It is offered to those who ask for it. The amount of wine (six big jars of about twenty-five gallons each) symbolizes the extent of God's mercy. As there was now more than enough wine for the wedding, God has more than enough mercy for those who need it. Wine is also a symbol of joy in the Old Testament. There is no greater joy than knowing that you have been forgiven by the Lord. Tom Schmidt, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

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Childhood Thoughts of Floater and Smitty

Floater: Never trust your dog to watch your food.

Smitty: When your dad is mad and asks you "Do I look stupid?"
Don't answer him.

Floater: Never tell your mom her diet's not working.

Smitty: Stay away from prunes.

Floater: When your mom is mad at your dad do not let her brush
your hair.

Smitty: Never hold a cat and a dust buster at the same time.

Floater: If you want a dog start off by asking for a horse.

Smitty: When you get a bad grade in school show her while she
is falling asleep.

Floater: You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.

Smitty: Puppies still have bad breath even after you give them a
tic tac.

Floater: Don't pick on your sister when she is holding a baseball
bat.

Smitty: Never try to baptize a cat.

Floater: When keeping score golfing always remember on a par 5
hole that seven shots goes down as a 4



"Yes, I'm sure Jesus danced at Cana, but I doubt he
was caught on film doing the Chicken Dance."

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