

American Martyrs

December 21, 2025 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Sean M. Suckiel, Pastor
Rev. Ralph Edel, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Peter J. Rayder, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Stan Galazin
Very Rev. Francis K. Asagba (in residence)

Parish Staff

Mrs. Theresa Asche
Director of Religious Education
Mrs. Patricia Adams:Office/Business
Mr. Jose Espindola:Parish Grounds

America Martyrs RC Church

79-43 Bell Blvd.
Oakland Gardens, NY 11364
Rectory: 718 + 464 + 4582
Religious Education 718 + 464 + 6411

Holy Family R.C. Church

175-20 74th Avenue
Fresh Meadows, NY 11366
718 + 969 + 2448

American Martyrs
8:30am Weekdays

4pm Saturday Vigil
Sunday 9am + 11:30am
Saturday Confession 3pm -3:45pm

Holy Family
8:30am Weekdays

5pm Saturday Vigil
Sunday 7:30am + 10:30am
12 noon + 5pm
Saturday Confession 4pm

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 3pm—3:45pm (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.

Pastors Advisory Board/Parish Council

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

"Peace is built in the heart and from the heart, by eliminating pride and vindictiveness and carefully choosing our words."

— Address to members of the diplomatic corps, May 16, 2025

Pope Leo XIV



Annual Catholic Appeal 2025
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN



The 2025 Annual Catholic Appeal supports the mission of American Martyrs and the daily work of the Diocese of Brooklyn in ways no one parish can accomplish alone.

All donations over our goal will be returned to American Martyrs

**2025 Annual Catholic Appeal
Jubilee of Hope,
Renewal of Faith and Charity!**

Updated December 21, 2025

**Goal: \$64,455
Pledged: \$138,540.00
Paid: \$135,860.43
Donors: 145 Families**



Remember in your Prayers the Sick of American Martyrs

Msgr. John Keppler, Elizabeth Coppola, Denis Keane, Anne Kingston, Martin Thaila, Vijay Devassy, Anita Mascoli, John Buglione, John Sheridan Jr., Vincent Sheridan, Gloria Saavedra, Jack Goydas, Michael G. McLoone, Gloria Valdez, Stephen Feit, Patrick Kearney, Roberto + Raquel Barrientos, Kalyan Sham, Gracinda Silva, Anna Bischoff, Vita Mazzola, Vincent Martin, James Pagano, Jesus Fernandez, Natalia Bianco, Jack Bradley, Dr. Mirian Lumbreras Rick San Severino, James Jagiello, Susan Miller, Mike Tremonte, Kathy McInerney, Mary Thompson, Carol Fetchick and Aileen Galazin

(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 21, 2025

9am

Raul Steven Vargas (Requested by Mom)

11:30am

Jack Bills (Requested by Ann Marie)

Victor Cabral, Sr (Requested by the Family)

Ralph Delloioio (Requested by the Remo)

Monday 8:30am

In Thanksgiving (Requested by Ballesteros Family)

Tuesday 8:30am

Chacko Family (Requested by the Family)

Wednesday

8:30am: Marcella Larkin (Requested by Rita)

4pm Christmas Eve Vigil

Stanley + Josephine Ruzalski (Requested by Rita + Bobby)

Midnight Christmas Mass

John W. Stewart+ John F. Stewart + Dennis J. Asche
(Requested by the Asche Family)

Christmas Day

9am: Marie Volpe (Requested by Ellen + Paul Brozen)

11:30am: Adele + Charles Perrano (Requested by Family)

Friday 8:30am

Alfredo Adorecion (Requested by Delia Santiago)

Saturday 8:30am

Catholic War Veterans (Requested by CWV)

Saturday 4:pm

Frank Paukowits (Requested by Burgenland Society)



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...

Msgr. Thomas Haggerty

The Gifts of Bread + Wine

**In Loving Memory of
Dennis J. Asche**

Requested by Asche Family



**The Gifts of Altar Sanctuary Candles
In Loving Memory of Jack Bills**

Requested by Ann Marie

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
Rubayet Molla

December 21, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent

When Joseph awoke he did as the angel of the Lord directed him.
"Are you prayerfully vigilant about priesthood or consecrated life?"

Have a Vocation?
For more information Contact the Vocation Office
(718) 827-2454 or email: vocations@diobrook.org.





A Letter from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

As we enter the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Gospel turns our attention to Saint Joseph, a man of deep faith, quiet strength, and obedient trust.

In today's Gospel, Joseph is faced with confusion and heartbreak. He does not understand how Mary could be with child, yet he chooses compassion over judgment. Scripture tells us he was a "righteous man." His righteousness is shown not in words, but in mercy.

Then God speaks to Joseph in a dream and everything changes. "Do not be afraid."

Joseph listens. He trusts. He obeys.

Without saying a single word in Scripture, Joseph teaches us a powerful lesson about Advent faith. He sets aside his own plans and allows God's plan to take precedence. He welcomes the child not as his own, but as **Emmanuel - God with us.**

As Christmas draws near, many of us may find ourselves carrying worries, uncertainties, or plans that have not unfolded as expected. Saint Joseph reminds us that God often works quietly, asking us simply to trust Him and to move forward in faith.

This final week of Advent invites us to:

- Listen for God's voice in prayer.** Join us this week for Eucharistic Adoration at Holy Family for Monday & Tuesday this week 7pm-8pm.
- Trust even when we do not have all the answers**
- Welcome Christ into our lives with open hearts.** Please go to confession before Christmas.

I warmly invite you and your family to join us for our Christmas Masses, as we gather to celebrate the birth of Christ and rejoice in the gift of Emmanuel, God with us.

Holy Family	American Martyrs
Christmas Eve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 5pm Vigil Mass with Pageant ◆ Midnight Mass 	Christmas Eve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 4pm Vigil Mass ◆ Midnight Mass
Christmas Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 7:30am + 9am + 10:30am + 12noon 	Christmas Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 9am + 11:30am

Please know of my prayers for you and your loved ones as we approach the joyful celebration of Christmas

Fr. Sean

The Blessing of Your Christmas Manger

(It is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member.)

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen

Collection for Sunday December 14, 2025

Online \$1,678.00 In-Pew \$3,939.00 Total \$5,617.00
 Poor Box: \$69.00 Votive Candles: \$185.00
 Religious Retirement: \$2,117.00
 Christmas Gift to American Martyrs: \$5,627.00



My Side of the Altar

Dear People of God,

Our Advent Season is coming to a close. Did we spend the last four weeks waiting and preparing for the birth of Our Lord Jesus into our world? I would also include the Season of Advent is a marvelous opportunity to listen—listen through prayer. What am I listening for? This time of year becomes incredibly hectic and frenetic for most of us. I don't have time to pray or listen—too many things need to be accomplished. Yet, there is more to life than increasing its speed.

Advent is a time for waiting, preparing and listening. These are not passive words. On the contrary, active listening takes work—the ability to make the time and calm from within so God can touch the deepest part of our heart. Am I a good listener? What am I listening for? Am I tuned into God or have I clicked off?

This time of year is a beautiful opportunity to give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus into our world and lives. Life is difficult., but what a glorious time of year to share with family and friends. Yet, many people are saddened by the death of a loved one this past year. Cherish their presence by sharing stories and more stories. Laugh. Cry. Give thanks and give God more thanks.

As our Advent Season gives way to Christmas morn it is important not to lose the gift of Christmas' real meaning— the birth of Jesus Christ. Jesus became human so we could become divine in our love and care for each other. Also, sprinkle the week with love, prayer and humor. Gather with family around the Table of the Lord and share Eucharist—and give thanks.

This stopped me in my tracks! So Please Slow Down and enjoy the 'Presence'

Every minute someone leaves this world behind.

We are all in "the line" without knowing it.

We never know how many people are before us.

We can not move to the back of the line.

We can not step out of the line.

We can not avoid the line.

So while we wait in line -

Make moments count.

Make priorities.

Make the time.

Make your gifts known.

Make a nobody feel like a somebody.

Make your voice heard.

Make the small things big.

Make someone smile.

Make the change.

Make love.

Make up.

Make peace.

Make sure to tell your people they are loved.

Make sure to have no regrets.

Make sure you are ready.

***Journeying with you through Advent at a slow pace and rejoicing on Christmas Day...
...From American Martyrs Rectory... ...Have a Blessed Christmas and know well you are in our prayers
Fr. Francis + Deacon Stan + Fr. Peter***

The Look of Love

What does love look like?

Love has feet to go to the poor and needy.

Love has eyes to see misery and want

Love has ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of others. --St. Augustine

American Martyrs Christmas Mass Schedule



4pm Christmas Eve
12am Midnight Christmas
9am Christmas Day
11:30am Christmas Day

O Little Town of Bethlehem



There is a Christmas song that says of Bethlehem: "Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light." Bethlehem is a suburb of Jerusalem. Its main tourist attraction in the time of Jesus was that it was the birthplace of David. Though today it has many modern homes and buildings, you can still see that it is part of "the hill country. . . of Judah." It is not too far from En Kerem, where John the Baptist was born, and apparently where today's Gospel takes place. We see in the Gospel reading today how Elizabeth and her unborn child rejoiced at the news of Jesus' coming birth. The story implies that Mary went to see Elizabeth as soon as the angel told her about Jesus. Maybe it was easier to tell her cousin, who was also with child, than her fiancé. I would think that talking about it made this miracle more real. I know that talking about my faith makes it more real to me.

Jesus is the "everlasting Light" mentioned in the song. That light shines today, not just in Bethlehem, but everywhere that his followers bring it. When we console someone who is mourning, that light shines. When we offer to help someone in need, it shines brighter. When we forgive someone who hurt us, the light is burning. When we offer to sponsor a candidate in the RCIA, the light grows. When we teach a child how to pray, it shines even brighter. Our dark streets need the everlasting Light today as much as they did 2000 years ago. Today we remember how Mary and Elizabeth shared their faith in God. They did so much like we do today. Mary could not see her unborn son yet, but helped Elizabeth to believe by her words. Jesus, who seems to be invisible today, is seen in the shared faith of those who bring him into the world by their words and actions. Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 21, 2025

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Ahaz proclaims the sign that the Lord will give: a virgin shall give birth to a son, Emmanuel.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 24:1-2,3-4,5-6

The Lord is the King of Glory who established the earth.

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Paul greets the community at Rome and declares himself a servant of Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-24

An angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary as his wife and telling him that the child she will bear will be called Emmanuel.



Background on the Gospel Reading

Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about" (Matthew 1:18).

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: ". . . The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us]."

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.



The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass at Midnight

First Reading: *Isaiah 9:1-6*

To those in darkness, a child will be born who will have dominion over the earth.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 96:1-2,2-3,11-12,13*

Sing a new song to the Lord.

Second Reading: *Titus 2:11-14*

God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 2:1-14*

Jesus is born in a manger in Bethlehem as the angel appears to the shepherds.

Background on the Gospel Reading

During the Christmas season, our liturgy invites us to consider the birth of the Lord from many vantage points. As we begin this season, it is useful to remember that the stories of Jesus' birth and childhood are found in only two of our Gospels, Matthew and Luke. Throughout this season, we will hear stories from both Gospels. Those Gospels tell different but complementary stories about Jesus' birth, highlighting items of theological importance about the Incarnation and the salvation that Jesus brings.

On this day, the Feast of Christmas, we are given the details of Christ's birth as found in the Gospel of Luke. Here we learn about the census that brings Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem, where Jesus is born. We also hear about the angel's announcement of this good news to the shepherds. In these details, we find two of Luke's particular concerns: (1) to locate the coming of Christ in the wider framework of salvation history as good news for all people, Gentiles and Jews, and (2) to show the Lord's favor upon the poor and lowly.

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus is born as one of the poor. Laid in a manger in a stable, because there was no room at the inn, he comes into the world through obscure and surprising means. Yet, as the angel proclaims this good news to the shepherds, this infant is announced as the Messiah and Lord. In the song of the angels, all are invited to give glory to God for this miraculous birth, in which God comes to share our humanity.

The angels sing that Jesus' coming brings peace. Yet there is little in the details of this Gospel that gives evidence of peace. Jesus is born as a traveler away from home, born in a stable in a crowded city under the occupation of foreigners. The appearance of the angel to the shepherds frightens them. When the angels proclaim Jesus' birth as the harbinger of "peace on earth," the evangelist Luke clearly wants us to take the long view. The shepherds are invited to claim a faith that will enable them to see this infant as a sign God's promise of a messiah. It is through such faith that one finds the peace of which the angels sing.

THANK YOU



Hats Off to Mike Chimenti, Theresa Asche, John Sullivan, Knights of Columbus, Columbiettes and many others for making the "Special" Christmas Evening Musical Spectacular for our Special Friends.

Beautiful Christmas Music, Sing-A-Long, Laughter, Hot Chocolate, Pizza, Cakes, Sweets and most important: Smiles!

A Free Will Offering Allowed American Martyrs to make a contribution to Queens Centers for Progress and the Bayside Chapter of Special Olympics.

We all Need a Stable Influence in Our Lives



**Come Back Home To American Martyrs
This Christmas Where There Is Always Room at the Inn**

New Year's Eve Party

Hosted by American Martyrs Columbiettes

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

8:00 PM to 1:00 AM

79-43 Bell Boulevard
Bayside, NY 11364

(Sullivan Center-Church parking lot entrance)

DJ J Antonio returns!!

Handicap accessible



Early Bird Special available – purchase before December 4th
\$65 Adults (ages 15+), \$30 Child (ages 6-14), Free (ages 0-5)

December 4th -December 23rd - \$85 adults, \$30 Child

RSVP to Annabelle no later than December 23rd

Or For More Info

AMCcolumbiettes@gmail.com / Call or Text 347-871-8644



Zelle payments now accepted and
confirmation code is emailed

American Martyrs Columbiettes – New Year's Eve Tear Off – 8pm to 1am

BEFORE Dec 4th

Adults: \$65

Child: \$30

Dec 4th thru Dec 23rd**

Adults: \$85

Child: \$30

Make Checks payable to:
American Martyrs
Columbiettes

Mail cash/checks to:
American Martyrs Church
c/o Annabelle for NYE
79-43 Bell Boulevard
Queens, NY 11364

Date: _____ First & Last Name _____

of Adults (ages 15+) _____ # of Children (ages 6-14) _____ # of Infants (0-5;Free) _____

Phone # _____ Email: _____

***** Tickets not sold at the door. ***** If confirmation code is not received via email within 3 business days, regardless of form of payment, call Annabelle 347-871-8644



American Martyrs Welcomes Home Our College Students For Christmas

Bing sings, and Mike Chimenti as well... "I'll Be Home for Christmas," If they are not home yet, our college students will be coming home for Christmas break within hours! Academic semesters on college campuses are done. I remember what a fun time of the year it always was for me when all of my old friends from high school were reunited again. In most cases, it had only been a couple of months since I had seen them last, but when you first move away from home a couple of months is probably the longest most young people have ever been away. The end of the semester is still nice for me, even now that I'm standing here. I like seeing some of the old faces back in our pews again. The students all seem a little different than when I saw them at their graduation parties in the summer. It's easy to see that you, their parents and grandparents also are happy to have your children and grandchildren back for a while. You all seem so proud. As nice as it is, I can imagine that there also might be some challenges in the house now that the college students are back. Parents might be looking forward to some face-to-face conversation and spending a little time together. The students, on the other hand, have just finished a long week of cramming, papers, and final exams. They maybe want nothing more than to sleep until afternoon and "veg out" in front of reruns on the TV until dinner.

Parents and other siblings might have to be patient and learn to share again as now there will be one more person to compete for the car and for time on the computer. You might be startled to hear the buzz of the microwave at 2:00 a.m., only to realize that it's normal for them to be awake at that hour. It also might take your returning students some time to adjust from being someplace where they had no curfews, no chores, and no family responsibilities to worry about and to be back home where they can't hang their coats and clothes up on the floor.

The Church gives us so many symbols to prepare us for the coming of Christ at Christmas – the Advent wreath, the Jesse tree, the priest's purple and rose vestments. I think we could add one more symbol to help us prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas– the returning college student, the returning college student. What more practical symbol could there be then the returning college student to remind us that there is One who is coming who will bring joy to our homes, but whose coming also will disturb our routines and our lives? Be prepared. He is coming. We are to set things in order and prepare Him room. We are reminded that things will no longer be the same. Each new season when the college students come home we see how much things are changing. We are compelled to look at these young people no longer as who they were but who they are becoming. The students among us, in imitation of the Christ child, are to be a gift to the world, destined for God's glory.

This may be hard to conceive when you see some of the things that they've begun to wear lately – or as they heap their dirty laundry all over the house. In much the same way it must have been hard for the shepherds to believe that the tiny child who lay in the animal's feeding trough was destined to be the Savior, the King and Creator of all things.

These college students are among us as a sign of hope and promise – a call to test and to purify our expectations. They teach us to try to hold on to what is important, but they also teach us to let go – to let things be mightily changed and to welcome something new. It's good to have the college students home. I think we should dress them in purple and rose. They remind us what Advent is all about.

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



St. Michael the Archangel

Dear Archangel Michael, **I call upon you in this moment of need, asking for your protection and guidance.** As the powerful warrior of God, I trust in your ability to defend me from all harm and danger. I ask that you wrap me in your divine light, shielding me from any evil that may come my way.

Christmas Giving Tree



Thank You To All That Helped Make This Years Giving Tree Successful!

On Monday We Will Be Delivering The Presents So That The Presents Arrive At Their Final Destination By Christmas Day

PLEASE BE MINDFUL!

When entering American Martyrs please be mindful that many people are praying. If you wish to greet someone do so in quiet tones so as not to disturb another's prayer time.

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 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 you may call: Maryellen Quinn, Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator, 718-965-7300



Bishop Ray's Blog
Finding Meaning in Each Day
Blog Address: www.bishopraymondchappetblog.com/


**PRAY FOR
SEMINARIANS**

Saint Charles Borromeo, pray for our future priests



A Journey to Divine Mercy with St. Faustina

American Martyrs cordially invites you to ***A Journey to Divine Mercy with St. Faustina***, in video and discussion format.

Our focus this year will be on prayer. Not the type of prayer you may be familiar with but the type of prayer that called the Saints to the depths of contemplative communion with our Lord:

- *“Prayer is still a little-known means; however, it is the most effective way to re-establish peace in our souls because it allows us to get ever closer to God’s love.”*
St. Maximilian Kolbe



- *“When it is well done, it moves the Divine Heart and makes Him always more inclined to grant our requests.”* **St. Padre Pio**
- *“Great is the power of prayer – a queen, as one might say, has free access always to the King, and able to obtain whatever she asks.”*
St. Therese of Lisieux
- *“Give me a man of prayer and he will be capable of everything. He may say with the apostle, ‘I can do all things in him who strengthens me.’”* **St. Vincent de Paul**
- *“For whatever the virtue you see, pray. And pray in this way” by reading in the Book of Life, that is, in the life of the One who is God and man, Jesus Christ.”* **St. Angela of Foligno**

TIME: Sessions are held every third Tuesday of the month and weekly during Lent. Refreshments are available.

LOCATION: American Martyrs RC Church, 79-43 Bell Blvd
Oakland Gardens, NY 11364 in the Fr. John J. Murray Center (rectory side door)

FOR MORE INFORMATION or if you are not a regular attendee, please call Annabelle Villegas 347-871-8644 or email AgapeLove@latinodirect.com to confirm there have been no changes to the schedule.

Defensive Driving Course *“You Can’t Afford to Miss it”*



American Martyrs Murray Hall - Saturday, January 24, 2026 - 9am - 3:30pm
Call for more information (631) 360 - 9720

The Mitten Drive is Back!



We are again collecting gently-used or new Mittens, Gloves, Scarves and Hats for children and adults. There will be boxes at the entrances of our Church starting December 17 thru January.

These items will be donated each week to a Salvation Army family shelter to help those in need of warm clothing.

Christmas Thoughts... ...Floater and Smitty



Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:8-14.

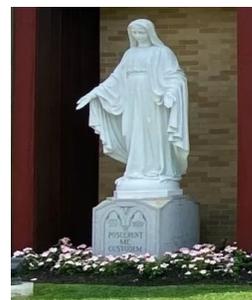
Merry Christmas from Floater and Smitty

Traveling Madonna within our Parish of 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. The Rosary Society has been passing the statue of Mary through the parish. In this difficult time, as we pray for peace, anyone interested 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!



Tired of doing the same "Old-Thing?"

Join the Leisure Club and We Can Do the Same "Old-Thing" Together!



We Meet on Thursdays from 11am - 3pm in the Sullivan Center
(Sullivan Center is Heated, Air Conditioned & Handicap Accessible)

**Schedule for the Lectors and
Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
SATURDAY/SUNDAY DECEMBER 27/28**

Lectors

4pm Vigil: Christine Markou

9am: Orlando Hernandez

11:30am: Linda Limberg

Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

4pm: Mary Ann + Gregg Schreiber

Donna Sosna + Stephen Sica

9am: Theresa Asche + Berta Hernandez

Getulio Cury + Anne Caruso

11:30am: Bernie Liu + Maureen Henry

Johanna Zafferese + Terry Marchia

**Acolyte/Altar Servicers Schedule
SATURDAY/SUNDAY DECEMBER 27/28**

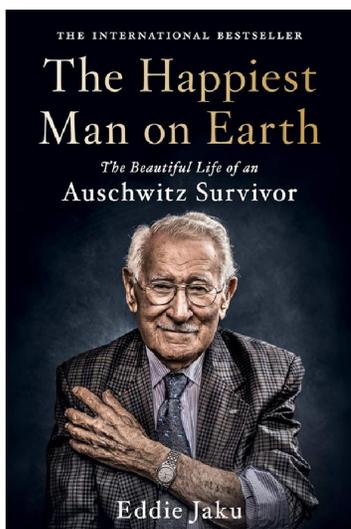
Saturday 4pm VIGIL
Brooke + Madison + Jose

Sunday 9AM
Omar + Edward + Katarina

Sunday 11:30AM:
Sophia + Landon + Julianna

Next Meeting for the Book Club
Will Take Place in the Murray Center
Monday January 12, 2026 at 7pm

The Book to Read is...



**Rosary Society
Altar Linen Schedule**



December 28: Nancy Marchi

January 4: Nancy Hill

January 11: Mary Galazin

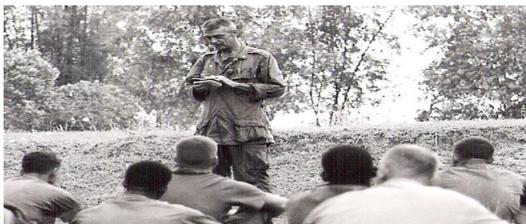
January 18: Carol Fortune

January 25: Nancy Marchi

If you are unable to do a week 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



JOIN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
FR. JOHN J. MURRAY/AMERICAN MARTYRS
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL # 14666



For more information Email: KofCAM14666@gmail.com
Website: KofCAM.Weebly.com

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COLUMBIETTES COUNCIL # 14666



For more information call Anne Caruso 347 - 626 - 9802
"A CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN"

Thoughts of Floater and Smitty

Floater: You're free to leave Christmas ornaments up all year. Please just sign the Decoration of Independence.

Smitty: On Dasher, On Dancer, On MasterCard and Visa!

Floater: If anyone is alone this Christmas please let me know! I need to borrow some folding chairs.

Smitty: Killer whales have recently started attacking boats. Police fear it's Orca-nized crime.

Floater: Why does everyone hate vegans? I've never had any beef with them myself.

Smitty: I met my wife in a singles bar. I was really surprised to meet her cause I thought she was at home with the kids...

Floater: I used to hate facial hair...but then it grew on me.

Smitty: Can you please stop asking Santa for the perfect man? I almost got kidnapped three times today.

Floater: When I was in medical school I decided to become a dermatologist didn't give it much thought. It was a rash decision.

Smitty: Later I'll be sharing a pun about circles. I hope it makes the rounds.

Floater: I want to grow my own food but I can't find bacon seeds.

Smitty: My wife said I never listen to her, or something like that.

Floater: Is there ever a day that mattresses are not on sale?

Smitty: My wife asked if she could have a little peace and quiet while she cooked. So I took the battery out of the smoke detector

Floater: Someone once told me "I'd never gonna forget him," I just can't remember who it was.

Smitty: I'm often mistaken for an adult because of my age.

Floater: I'm reading a book about a Doctor's work place by Sir Jerry.

Smitty: What do Santa's helpers learn in Kindergarten?
The elfabet.

Looking to Help???
Bridge to Life Needs Diapers!

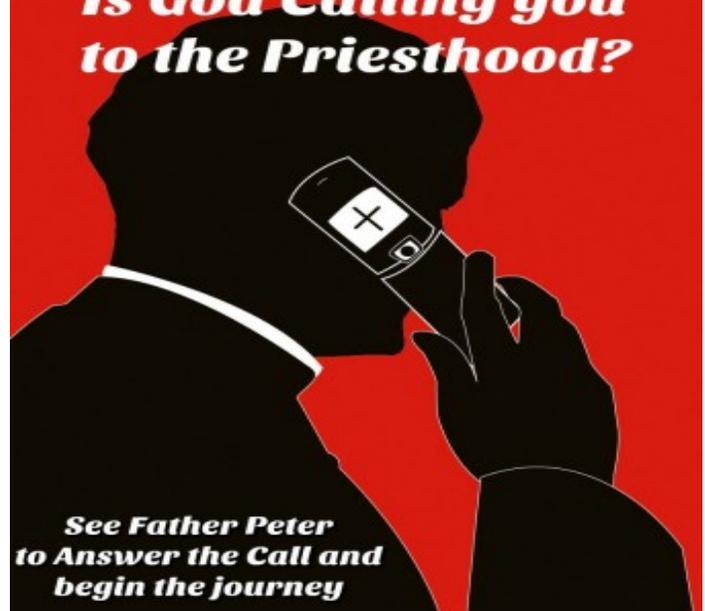
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