

MASSES FOR THE WEEKSATURDAY - December 23

5:00 pm: Mascioli Family ---- Anita Mascoli

SUNDAY Dec. 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 am: Misa Pro Populo

10:30 am:

1. Agostino & Rosa Mascioli -- DiLucci Family
2. Sadie Pagano --- Patricia & Family
3. Anna & Ludwig Muller --- Fr. Frank

12:30 pm: John F. (Jack) Bills --Ann Marie

5:00 pm: Eleanor, Vincent & Susan Calace -Victoria

Midnight: Misa Pro Populo

Mon. - Dec. 25 - Christmas Day

8:30 am: Ruggieri Family --- Family

10:30am: Agnes & Michael Goydas --- Family

12:30pm: Joan Shanahan Kearney --- Family

Tues. - Dec. 26 - St. Stephen

8:30 am: John & Hedwig Sosna --- Donna & Steve

Wed. - Dec. 27 - St. John the Apostle

8:30am: Maria Markou --- Eleanor & Family

Thurs. Dec. 28 - The Holy Innocents

8:30 am: John Fitzsimmons --- Family

Fri. - Dec. 29 - St. Thomas Becket

8:30 am: Lina Muller --- Fr. Frank

Sat. - December 30

8:30 am: Intentions of the Catholic War Veterans

5:00 pm: Rose Ferreira & Eduardo Goncalves - Family

Sun. - Dec. 31

8:30 am: Misa Pro Populo

10:30 am: 1. Theresa Kavaliauskas --- Family

2. Raffaele Pasquale -- Mr. & Mrs. Amarain

3. Robert DiMasi -- Mom

12:30 pm: Samantha Hope Ventura - Dr. Anne Nolte

*The Gifts of Bread and Wine and Altar Candles
are offered this week:*

*~ In Loving Memory of ~
The Ruggieri Family
requested by the Family*

The Sanctuary Lamp is offered this week:

*~ In Loving Memory of ~
Joan Shanahan Kearney
requested by her Family*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CH-Church, SC-Sullivan Center, S-School,
SA-School Auditorium, MC-Murray Center,
RC-Kateri (Rector) Chapel ---BR-Board Room

SUNDAY - December 24

- NO Religious Education
* resumes Jan. 7.

MONDAY- December 25

- Rector Office Closed
- Alcoholics Anonymous (Beginners Mts.) 7-8 pm - SC
- Alcoholics Anonymous (Open Mtg.) 8:30 - 9:30 pm-SC

TUESDAY - Dec. 26

- **NO BINGO** - * resumes January 2, 2018
Total Prizes: \$3,000. Early Bird 7:15 PM.
***** **HANDICAP ACCESS** *****

Please join us! We are grateful for all of our volunteers.

WEDNESDAY - Dec. 27

- Alcoholics Anonymous - big book - 7 pm-SC
- Alcoholics Anonymous - C - 8:30 pm -SC

THURSDAY - Dec. 28

- Leisure Club -- 11 am -- SC

SUNDAY - Dec. 31

- NO Religious Education

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AT AMERICAN MARTYRS

- Sat. Dec. 30 - CWV-SC after 8:30 am Mass

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2017Christmas Eve - December 24

5 pm & Midnight Mass

Monday - December 25, 2017 - Christmas Day

8:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm

Sunday - December 31, 2017

8:30 am, 10:30 am 12:30 pm (No 5 pm Mass)

Monday - January 1, 2018 - Solemnity of Mary

8:30 am Mass in Church



Sunday CollectionsLast Weekend - December 17, 2017

My Weekly Offering for the Support of my Church-- \$6,493.

This Weekend - December 24, 2017

My Weekly Offering for the Support of my Church.

Christmas Gift to my Church.

Mon. Dec. 25 - Christmas Offering for our Church.

Mon. Dec. 25 - Catholic Charities -- for the care of Families in Brooklyn and Queens. Please give generously.

Next Weekend - December 31, 2017

My Weekly Offering for the Support of my Church.

*******NOTE:** Please make **all** checks payable to:
American Martyrs Church.

If you are unable to attend Mass for a few Sundays, please use your "Catch Up" envelope for your contributions.

We need you & your financial support!

ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE: It's a convenient and secure way to make your regular Sunday contributions and there's no cost to you to set up your account on line. Just go to: e-giving.org/americanmartyrschurch and follow the instructions.

Please remember the Roman Catholic Church of American Martyrs in your will and estate planning.

Please Pray for our Sick, Homebound and Hospitalized:

Paula Abel, Jackie Arriaga, Alex Aponte, Marge Aquino, Josephine Attard, Elsa Barbagallo, Roberto Barrientos, Mary Margaret Benza, Iride Bubek, Frances Burgess, Frank Carroll, Chang Family, William Christopher, Ralph Colamussi, Jessie Carlone, Carrie Enright, Jo Anne Failla, John Fazio, Diana Ferrante, Terry Flexer, Michael Gorry, Mary Grecco, Wilson Grullon, Ray Hippeli, Daniel Hoffner, John Horvat, Dr. Pamela Ierardi, Bill Krug, Gabriella Losasso, Cathy Losito, Mary & Ralph Marazzo, Aida Maravilla, Steve Mattaliano, Susan McConnell, Ed McGrath, Danny Montchal, Mary Fitzgerald Murray, Ed Myles, Pat North, Estella Palucious, Walter Panas, Rosemary Parente, Sal Piazza, Lynn Pickett, Peg Pinto, Guillermo Ramirez, Maria Ramirez, Alexander Ramos, Gloria Ricioppi, Lily & Mike Rivera, Patrice Rohde, Arlene Scherne, Frank Schusteritsch, Lee Servillo, Adam Singer, George Stellakis, Mary Sweeney, Suzanne Szalkiewicz, Rosemarie Tricarico, Joan Wagner, Jesse Wagner, Lorraine Walsh, Ed Wilm, McCaila Young, Genevieve Zenka, Fireman & 9/11 Survivor - Michael Arriaga.

If you would like to add a name to our sick list, please call the Rectory office.

Also, please pray for the men and women of our Armed Forces serving in the U.S. and abroad.

Nothing is more powerful than the power of prayer.

MITTEN DRIVE

Our **MITTEN DRIVE** is underway and the baskets will be at the entrances to the Church. We are collecting gently used or new Adult's and Children's Mittens/Gloves Hats & Scarves. These items will be delivered to local shelters to warm needy families.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS"KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" - Poster Contest

Please encourage the young people in your life to share their talents and remind us all of the true meaning of Christmas by having them enter the "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest sponsored by our Father John J. Murray Knights of Columbus Council. Open to children ages 5 through 14, first (\$25 gift card) and second (\$15 gift card) place prizes will be awarded in three age groups. All entries must be submitted by Sunday, December 17th.



Contact kofc14666fm@gmail.com if your child has not already received an entry form with the rules or for further information.

CHRISTIAN REFUGEE RELIEF FUND

To help aid our suffering Christian sisters and brothers in the Middle East the Father John J. Murray Knights of Columbus Council will be selling selling buttons and magnets during Advent. All proceeds are being donated to the Knights of Columbus Christian Refugee Relief Fund. There are five different "Keep Christ in Christmas" buttons that sell for \$2 each or 3 for \$5. The "Jesus - The Reason for the Season" car magnets are 5.75" round and depict a beautiful, full color version of Mary holding baby Jesus and sell for \$5 each. Thank you in advance for your support and your prayers.

+ REMEMBER THE DECEASED +
Maria Markou

Eternal Rest grant unto them Lord. May perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace; and may their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.
~ Amen

+ PURGATORIAL SOCIETY +

The Purgatorial Society enrolls a deceased loved one in 12 monthly Masses (starting on the month of enrollment) offered on the first Sunday of every month at the 10:30 am Mass. The stipend to enroll a loved one is \$25.00. The names of those enrolled for the first month will be published in the bulletin.

REGISTRATION FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CCD)

Children entering the 1st grade should enroll NOW in order to receive first communion in second grade—registration forms can be found at the Church entrances. **Children in all grades** who have not previously been enrolled in Religious Education or transferring to American Martyrs' program should call the Religious Education office at 718-464-6411 for an application.

Please check our website:

AMReligion Class.Weebly.com

for school closings due to inclement weather.

Religious Education email:

AMReligionClass@gmail.com

***** COMMUNITY NEWS *****

Catholic Charities - Bayside Senior Center-

221-15 Horace Harding Expy. 718-225-1144 Serves full meals at 11:30 every day. Programs: Chair Yoga, Line Dancing, Tai Chi, Exercise, Bingo, Computer, and more.

Sisters of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus:

Will minister and care for the elderly in their own homes. Call 718-888-7708.

Catholic Charities Home-base Program - assists those with housing crisis, (i.e.-- rental arrears, utility shutoffs, etc.) Call 718-674-1000 for more information.

St. Vincent de Paul: Donate your old Car, Truck or Van - running or not. 718-491-2525. The Society will give back \$75/\$200 to American Martyrs. For anyone that has a neglected vehicle that they would like to dispose of contact:

SVDPAUTO@GMAIL.COM

IRS Tax Deduction - Free Towing - Any Condition.

Al-Anon and Ala-teen Family Groups: if you've been affected by or are concerned about someone else's drinking, you've come to the right place! Hope, help, and happiness are attainable. www.nycalanon.org -- 212-941-0094

Catholic Charities Neighborhood Home Delivered Meals:

Are you or someone you know 60+ years old, living in the North-east Queens area and would benefit from a hot meal each day? Call 718-357-4903 for more information.

Meals-on-Wheels -- Sub. Drivers needed on call--Mon - Sat. 4 hours per workday. 718-357-4903 #1 - Maria or Kathy

Alzheimer's Adult Day Program - Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services. Mental and physical stimulation, a hot lunch and door to door transportation. 718-358-3541. Weekly caregiver support group.

Nar-Anon Never Alone: is a 12-step support group for anyone affected by a loved one's use/abuse of drugs. 718-217-0364.

**Forever I will sing
the goodness of the Lord.**

2017 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

~ *Live in Faith Give in Love* ~

Annual Appeal Goal for 2017:	\$61,392.
Amount Pledged:	\$103,760.
Amount Received:	\$100,091.
Donors:	289

Pledge envelopes have been placed at all the entrances to the Church. You can make a pledge online by going to



www.rcdobdonate.org, or simply mail in the commitment form on the back of the **Tablet** with the amount of your pledge. Some companies have matching gift programs, so please check to see if your place of employment participates. If you have not yet seen the video presentation, you may do so on our **website:**

americanmartyrs-queens.org.

Remember, every dollar received over goal comes back to the Parish.

Thank you for all you do for American Martyrs.

~ *Reverend Frank L. Schwarz, Pastor*

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

Every year when we celebrate Christmas we are reminded of the great hope which God has bestowed upon mankind through His Son, Jesus Christ. The birth of Jesus, the Incarnate Word of God, allows us to realize that God is truly with us. This is the meaning of "Emmanuel", God with us, and we are truly blessed to be called to follow Him. By following Him we are led to salvation for He is the light in the darkness of our world, a light which the darkness cannot overcome.



Indeed, the greatest gift which anyone can receive on Christmas is the gift which God Himself has given us, the gift of His Son. It is a gift which is meant to be shared for only by sharing it can it increase in us. Whatever else we may give or receive during this Christmas Season, it surely pales in comparison with this wonderful gift of God. May you and your families have a most Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

~ Fr. Frank

REFLECTION

“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” With those words our Blessed Mother Mary places her total trust in God. We are called to do the same, and this final Sunday of Lent is the time for us to do that, if we have not previously. Mary’s response to God is the same response we need to offer the Lord. It is most appropriate that we hear this message at this time and on this day.



This took much more trust in the Lord than we might imagine. Mary agreed to receive a pregnancy that would be seen as suspect in a culture which had a potential death penalty for adultery. Spiritually speaking, there are similarities between the Lord’s work in Mary and His work in all of us. Jesus lives within each of us spiritually. He lived in Mary not only spiritually but also physically.

Jesus was made visible to the world through Mary physically, but He should be made visible to the world through us as well. Who we are and how we relate to and treat others is a sign to the world of Who Jesus is and what a Christian is and should be. Are we showing the world what it means to be His disciple? Is there a better time than this to do so?

The entertainer and comedian Bob Hope once said, “My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?” ~ thecatholicsteward.com

2018 Mass Book Intentions

You may choose to commemorate a death anniversary, wedding anniversary, birthday remembrance, in healing, or simply a prayer of thanksgiving. **Each offering is \$15.** Please come to the Rectory or call to request a special Mass offering for your loved one. Also, you may wish to offer the gifts of Bread and Wine or the Altar Candles for one week. **The offering is \$25. Mass Intention forms are located on the tables in the Church.**

Father Frank, Deacon Stan,
our staff and volunteers extend to all our
parishioners and their families sincere wishes
for a wonderful Christmas filled with
Blessings, Peace and Joy.



Please do not bring food or drinks into Church.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH-CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Amount Pledged: \$1,240,000.

Total Paid on Pledges: \$707,236.

Amount returned to American Martyrs: \$270,375.

Number of Parishioners participating: 310

I am very excited to tell you that work on the Church roof and pointing is almost completed. We will do everything possible to minimize any inconvenience to our parishioners. ***Please be patient as this long overdue work progresses!***



For those who have pledged, thank you for your faithfulness in fulfilling your pledges. It is due to your generosity that this work can be done.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

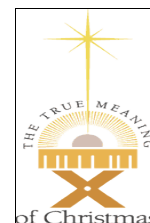
God of light beyond darkness, the season leading up to Christmas is a feast for my senses. I celebrate with twinkling lights, glorious music, delicious and aromatic food. I celebrate the embrace and touch of those I love. In what is the darkest time of year with the shortest days, a ne light shines forth, piercing my doubts, dissipating my anger and strengthening my lukewarm faith with a power that arouses something new in my. I am invited to a feast that nourishes, nurtures, renews and readies me for another trip around the sun. Be my feast and my journey, Lord.
~ Amen



CHRISTMAS GIFT

Please consider making a Christmas gift to American Martyrs Church.

Envelopes have been placed at the doors and front pews of the Church for the convenience of those who do not receive envelopes at home.



**A Holy day has dawned upon us.
Come, you nations, and adore the Lord.
For today a great light has come upon the earth.**

