

Church of Saint Mel

2615 154th St., Flushing, NY 11354

(718) 886-0201 - Fax: (718) 886-0882

www.stmels-queens.org



Sunday, September 3, 2023

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Joseph G. Fonti, S.T.L., Pastor
Rev. Italo Barozzi, In Residence
Msgr. Kevin B. Noone, In Residence
Deacon Joseph A. Freda

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday - 9:00 A.M., 5:00 P.M. (Vigil)
Sunday - 7:30 A.M., 9:00 A.M. (Italian),
10:30 A.M., 12:00 P.M.

WEEKDAY MASSES

September - June

Monday - Friday: 7:00 A.M., 9:00 A.M.

July - Labor Day

Monday - Friday: 8:00 A.M.

CONFESSION

Saturday 11:00 - 12:00 P.M.
and by appointment at the Rectory.

ST. MEL'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY

154-24 26th Ave., Flushing, NY 11354
(718) 539-8211 Fax (718) 539-6563
www.stmelsacademy.org
Board Chair: Dominick Yezzo
Principal: Mrs. Amy Barron, M.A., M.S.Ed.

FAITH FORMATION CO-DIRECTORS

Paula Migliore - Denise DeRosa
Faith Formation Office - (718)
461-9840

BAPTISMS

Call the Rectory Office for information at least one month in advance.

MARRIAGES

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

NEW PARISHIONERS

We are always happy to welcome new parishioners into the family of St. Mel. Stop in at the Rectory to register, ask questions and meet the priests who gladly serve you.

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 Rectory -718-886-0201. Visits will be happily arranged for you.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION & NOVENA

Each Monday after the 9:00 A.M. Mass.
Blessed Sacrament Devotions:
First Friday Adoration 9:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.
Daily Recitation of the Rosary: 8:30 A.M.

EVANGELIZATION

If you know of any Catholic, who is not attending Church or receiving the Sacraments and desires help in returning, please call or refer them to one of the priests at 718-886-0201. All information is confidential.

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
Weekends by Appointment Only
Emergencies any time.



As I sit down to write these few lines, The Beatles' hit, "Hello, Goodbye", comes to mind. The song's title seems to capture the spirit of Labor Day.

Ten weeks ago, we welcomed summer. This weekend we bid farewell to it as we ready ourselves for a return to our normal pace/routine of life.

Whether your desk is in a classroom or office, none of us wants to say goodbye to the pleasures of summer. And yet, we know that there is work to be done for our benefit and those around us.

Having enjoyed some time away from the parish, I returned two weeks ago to resume my care of souls and to help Mrs. Barron and her staff prepare the school for a new academic year.

Unfortunately, saying goodbye to summer is not our only goodbye; Rudy Albert, our parish Music Director, and the Music Teacher of the Academy, handed me his resignation letter last weekend. Stating that he chose "to leave to pursue another opportunity elsewhere," he thanked me / the parish for the opportunity to share his talent and love of music with us at Mass and in the classroom.

His sudden departure was unexpected. Finding a suitable and qualified replacement may take time especially since we hope his successor can serve at both the church and school. I ask for your patience. Mrs. Barron will assist me in interviewing potential candidates. Together we hope to find someone who is not only accredited and qualified, but who will continue St. Mel's long tradition of prayerful liturgies and fine teaching.

"You say goodbye and I say hello." So sang the Beatles.

"When God closes a door, He opens a window." So believeth the person of faith.

Saint Cecilia, patron of musicians, intercede for our parish at this time of need.

Father Fonti

**REMEMBER, GOD
DOESN'T CLOSE
ONE DOOR WITHOUT
GETTING READY
TO OPEN ANOTHER
WITH BIGGER
AND GREATER
THINGS.**

THEGOODVIBE.CO

Mass Intentions - September 3, 2023

SAT	9/2
5:00	Maria Martelli
SUN	9/3
7:30	Daniel Sitler
9:00	Pietro Gagliano
	Francesco Baldo
	Jenny, Matteo, Francesco, Francesca, & Santina Calabro & Family
	Andrew DiCamillo, Lino DiCamillo, & Lydia Giugliano
	Americo Chima, Anna & Angelo Graci
	Salvatore, Martina, Angelo & Franco Baccarella
	The People of The Parish
10:30	Giuseppe D'Amico, Pietro Gagliano, & Francesca Gagliano
12:00	Francesco & Maria Prestifilippo
MON	9/4
9:00	Daniel Shea (Happy 5th Anniversary in Heaven)
TUES	9/5
7:00	Maria Rosa DiPietro
9:00	Eugene Burns
WED.	9/6
7:00	Rosina & John B. Cerone, & Elizabeth & Luigi Zito
9:00	Joyce A. Cetta
THURS.	9/7
7:00	Dorothea Addeo
9:00	Sister Pia Flaim & Lino Flaim
FRI.	9/8
7:00	Dorothea Addeo
9:00	Michael & Angelo Vangi & Paul Proctor
SAT	9/9
9:00	Joseph Connors Sr. & Joseph Connors Jr.
	Anthony Moreno
	Salvatore Romano
5:00	Philip D'Alessio
SUN	9/10
7:30	Rose Paroula
9:00	Salvatore & Martina Bacarella
	Giuseppe & Giuseppina Cangialosi
	Giuseppe & Giuseppina Valenza
	Dominco Antonino Casabianca & Leonarda Romano
	Anna & Angelo Graci, Carmelo Giardina, & Americo Chima
	Pietro, Salvatore, Filippo, & Giuseppe Vitale
	The People of The Parish
10:30	Vincenza LaRocca
12:00	James Brady



Bread & Wine

*This week the Bread and Wine
are donated in Loving
Memory of:*

Walter Ilchert

**Given by: Beverly & His
Children & Grandchildren**



Altar Candles

*This week the Altar Candles
are donated in Loving Memory
of:*

**Thomas Muratore Sr.
(66th Wedding Anniversary
September 7th)**

**Given by: Josephine
Muratore**



Sanctuary Candles

*This week the Sanctuary
Candle is donated in Loving
Memory of:*

Daniel Sitler

**Given by: Carolyn & Bob
Sitler**



**Newly Enrolled in the
Purgatorial Society**

July 2023

**Kathleen Keown
Joyce Conte
Nicoletta Signore
Bridge Sullivan
Marko Bradica**

*The Purgatorial Mass is offered on the
First Friday of each month at 7:00am.
Enrollment in the Purgatorial Society is
for the period of one year.*

In your prayers...

Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need. Amen

We pray for all those who are sick, especially:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| • Matt Z. | • Avery Santiago |
| • Lisa Sperazza | • Ari Ortiz |
| • Susan Trezioso | • Susan Caraher |
| • Nick Roberto | • Brian Finnerty |
| • Pasqualina Lucciola | • Robert Muller |
| • Julia Rollo | • Lee Ragusa |
| • Francesca Cecile | • Paul Adessa |
| • Angelo Ragonese | • Joanne Perricelli |
| • Nick O'Donnell | • Drenckhahn |
| • Patricia O'Donnell | • Dottie Giordano |
| • Kristian Mendez | • Siena Rose Romagnuolo |
| • Brian Finn | • David G. |
| • Jennifer Russo | • Rosa Annibale |
| • Roseann Orlando | • Patricia White |
| • Barbara Ann Luisi | • Patricia Feeley |
| • Tom Sammel | • Mia Elizabeth Skaats |
| • Freda Cassini | • Nicky O'Donnell |
| • Jacinta Carolan | • Jimmy Caraher |
| • Assunta Goldone | • John Holmes |
| • Kruno Pandzic | • Venice Hernandez |
| • Carol Sturm | • Gloria Ubertini |
| • Martha Catul | • Eileen McBride |
| • Dominick Fortino | • Cami Yandoli |
| • RoseAnn Dell Apenna | • Lynn Gallagher |
| • Alida Addeo | • John Paul Yezzo |
| • Yolanda Gatti | • Niki Angelopoulous |
| • Patricia Parrish | • Valerie Albano Krug |
| • Carmen A. Leites | • Bryan Day |
| • Carollynn Freeda | • Theresa Bedell |
| • Anthony Marino | • Karen Youdell |
| • Mario Sumberac | • Elizabeth DiCampli |
| • Helen Sumberac | • Angela Infantino |
| • George Behringer | |

In observance of Labor Day - Monday, September 4th there will only be one Mass at 9:00AM and the Rectory office will be closed.

We resume our 7:00 AM and 9:00 AM weekday Masses starting Tuesday, September 5th.



“United in Communion / United in Charity”

ST. MEL’S 2023 GOAL: \$ 84,065

Already Pledged: \$119,480.64

164 Pledges

(100% of all funds raised above our goal come directly back to St. Mel’s)

A Prayer for Increasing Enrollment in Catholic Schools

O Good and Gracious God,
We praise and thank you for the students in our school. It is a sacred privilege to continue the teaching mission of your Son, Jesus. We hear His words in our hearts: “Let the children come to me! Do not hinder them.”

Lord, we are doing everything we can so that no child is hindered from coming to our school. We advertise, we market; we strategize and plan. Show us what more do we need to do, Lord?

Listen to our prayers as we ask you, Lord, to remove whatever hinders parents from choosing a Catholic school for their children. Guide their thinking and their decisions. May our desire to form a partnership with them be a source of hope and encouragement. Bless our efforts to meet funding challenges so that we can fulfill our commitment to be a school for all.

Lord, hold Mrs. Barron, our teachers, staff, our students and their families in Your loving, protective embrace.

And thank you for blessing St. Mel’s with a hopeful and promising future. Amen.



Italian Heritage Month

To honor Italian Heritage Month, October 2023, the Italian American Association of St. Mel's is hosting a **Christopher Columbus Dinner -Dance at Verdi's Catering Hall (149-58 Cross Island Pkwy.) on Sunday, October 15th from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM.**

Join us for an afternoon of tasty Italian food, dancing, and fun.

The sit-down dinner includes beer, wine & soda, antipasto, pasta, a choice of 5 entrees, cassata cake, espresso, coffee, or tea.

Dinner cost: \$70 per person.

Message to Our Members: Moving forward, the Association will no longer be hosting monthly meetings; many of our members are uncomfortable going out at night. Communication of future events will be sent to members via mail. Information will also be available in subsequent parish bulletins.

We are grateful to all our members for their loyal support and for helping us maintain our Italian traditions at St. Mel's these past 30 years.

To reserve your place at the table on October 15th, call either: Gerardo (718) 767-0411 or Julia (718) 961-1102.

Checks to pay for the dinner can either be brought or mailed to: St. Mel's Rectory 26-15 154th Street, Flushing, N.Y. 11354.

St. Mel's Leisure Club



Saint Mel's Leisure Club meets every Monday at 1:30 PM in Father O'Malley Hall. Some come for bingo. Some to play cards or board games. All come for what the Club offers: friendship and camaraderie. We extend a warm welcome to all parish seniors and to all seniors living within our neighborhood: Consider spending Monday afternoons with us. You could start your own table with those who share your interests. Chess, checkers, mahjong, book club - the possibilities are endless! Coffee and cake are at every meeting and during the holidays we host special celebrations. **Our First Meeting for 2023-2024 is on Monday, September 18th.** Entrance to O'Malley Hall is through the main doors of the church. For more information or to leave a message for the Leisure Club President, Ann Farrelly, call the rectory office: (718) 886-0201 x 110.



Stress in Your Marriage?



Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, lonely, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Maybe you don't know how to change the situation or how to communicate with your spouse about it. This program has helped tens of thousands of couples transform their marriages and fall in love again.

**Our Next Weekend is
September 8 - 10
At the Immaculate Conception Seminary,
Huntington**

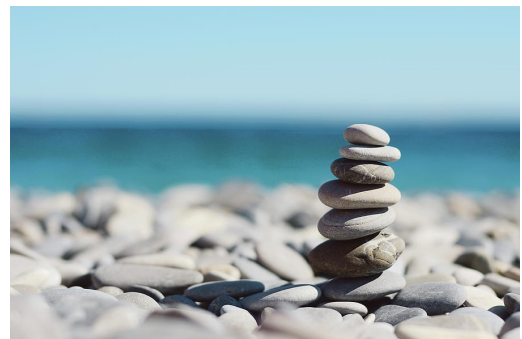
Visit our website at [HelpOurMarriage.org](https://www.HelpOurMarriage.org) or call 800-470-2230 for more information.

Please Save the Date Mass of Hope and Healing

For All Survivors of Abuse
Thursday, October 26th at 7:00 PM

Bernard's Church - 2055 E. 69th Street,
Brooklyn

All are invited to come together on this day to pray for healing for all those impacted by abuse



Loving God, watch over our children as they begin their new school year. Bless them with joy at seeing friends, excitement at new experiences, and a love of learning.

Guide and protect all who learn, replacing fear with joy, anxiety with peace, and tiredness with energy. Give wisdom, patience, and joy to teachers as they serve their students.

In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.



A BACK-TO-SCHOOL PRAYER

I prayed for you today

O Almighty Eternal God,
Look upon the face of Thy Christ,
and for the love of Him, Who is the Eternal High Priest,
have pity on Thy priests.
Remember, O most compassionate God,
that they are but weak and frail human beings.
Stir up in them the grace of their vocation which is
in them by the imposition of the Bishop's hands.
Keep them close to Thee,
lest the enemy prevail against them,
so that they may never do anything in the slightest
degree unworthy of their sublime vocation.

- St. Thérèse of Lisieux

Connect with St Mel using the Free Social App Tabella



Tabella is a fully Catholic app where you can enjoy Catholic content to grow in the faith. The Tabella app is available in English/ Spanish and has the biggest library of Catholic audio devotional content.

If you currently receive parish communications through Flocknote, be sure to download this app to your phone as it will eventually replace Flocknote for parish communications. This app is very easy to use and when there is a post from us you will get a push notification on your phone.

In the meantime, use all the resources available on this app to nurture your faith.

Step 1: Just scan the QR code to the left.

Step 2: Find and Follow St Mel Church. Use the Communities tab and search for “11354” Then click the “follow” Button on our church profile. You are now all set.

Stay Connected to St. Mel's Church

Go to: <http://stmelsrcchurch.flocknote.com> or you can find the app, Flocknote



This will bring you to the sign up page to enter your name, email address, and mobile phone number. You will be asked to verify your email or mobile number or both if given.

Once you have your information verified you will be asked to create a password.

Then you will just follow the directions on the site.

Once all is complete you will be set up to receive updates from Fr. Fonti.

Religious Education Program

St. Mel's Office of Faith Formation oversees the St. Mel School of Religion Program which provides Religious Instruction to children in grades 1 through 8 who attend public schools. Through our Religious Education program, we seek to increase children's awareness of the presence of God in their daily lives through Scripture, prayer and an appropriate curriculum that teaches Catholic doctrine necessary for children to become good, practicing Catholics. The program also prepares the children to complete their initiation into the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation. Classes are held on Wednesdays from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm for Grades 1-5 and from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm for Grades 6-8.



The first day of classes for the 2023-2024 school year is Wednesday, September 20th. We cannot wait to welcome back the children to a new school year! If you haven't already, new and returning students should register your child for the 2023-2024 school year as soon as possible by completing the on-line registration form at <https://stmels-queens.org/religious-education>. The annual Tuition Fee can also be paid on-line at <https://osvhub.com/church-of-saint-mel/funds/tuition-religious-education>.

Attention Parents of first graders or parents of children new to St. Mel's Religious Education Program: There will be a parent's meeting on Wednesday, September 13th at 7 pm in St. Mel's Men Club.

If you have any questions regarding St. Mel's Religious Education program, please email us at stmelfaithformation@gmail.com and stmelsdderosa@gmail.com.

OCIA - Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

A Journey of Faith



- ♦ Are you interested in the Catholic faith?
- ♦ Have you been coming to church for a while but are not Catholic?
- ♦ Have you been baptized Catholic or validly baptized in another Christian denomination and wish to be fully initiated into the Catholic faith through the Sacraments of Confirmation and Communion?

If you answered yes to this question, we invite you to look deeper into the Catholic faith through a process called the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults ("OCIA") It is also adapted for older children.

If you are interested in learning more about these programs, contact the Office of Faith Formation at stmelfaithformation@gmail.com and stmelsdderosa@gmail.com.

Bundle Saturday

Our next Bundle Saturday will take place on **October 14th** from 9am to 12 noon in the St. Mel's Parking Lot. Clothing in good condition is needed.

If you are considering selling your truck, car, or van the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will give back to our church whether it is running or not— \$50/\$100 per vehicle. Call: 718-491-2525

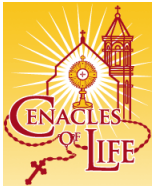
RACHEL'S HELPERS

A Post-Abortion Ministry for Women **Forgiven and Set Free** is a program for women who had an abortion and are seeking spiritual healing. Sponsored by the Diocese of Brooklyn, participants meet in small group settings.

For more information: 347-702-2352

No Fee & All Calls are Confidential.

The Cenacles of Life



The Cenacles of Life are prayer groups that pray as the Blessed Mother and the Apostles prayed in the Upper Room, awaiting the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. They pray – as should all Catholics – to stop the killing of the unborn, sick, and disabled. The goal of the Prayer Group: restore respect for the sanctity of life which has so frighteningly eroded in our country and world. Please come and pray with St. Mel's Cenacle of Life: Thursdays @ 11:00 AM in the church.

I Cenacoli della Vita sono gruppi di preghiera che pregano come prepararono la Madonna e gli Apostoli nel Cenacolo, in attesa dello Spirito Santo a Pentecoste. Pregano—come dovrebbero tutti i cattolici—per fermare l'uccisione di nascituri, malati e disabili. L'obiettivo del gruppo di preghiera: ripristinare il rispetto per la santità della vita che ha così spaventosamente eroso nel nostro Paese e nel mondo. Per favore, venite a pregare con il Cenacolo della Vita di San Mel: giovedì alle 11:00 in chiesa.



THE BRIDGE
TO LIFE

The Bridge to Life is in need of children's clothes (all sizes) in good condition. For more information please call Brian at Bridge to Life 718-463-1810 or text 516-387-2055

Volunteers Needed

The Bridge to Life is in need of volunteers on Wednesdays from 1-3PM to serve clients and/or to sort clothing a few hours a week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday). For more information please call Brian at Bridge to Life 718-463-1810 or text 516-387-2055

14-02 124th Street ♦
www.thebridgetolife.org

NARANON OPEN MEETING

Looking for support?
A loved one struggling with addiction?

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

JOIN US TUESDAY EVENINGS FROM

7:30-9:00PM

Lower level of St. Mel School

Contact: Ann Acquaviva 201-400-7760

for more details



AA Meetings

The First Step is always the hardest. It's made easier when it is not taken alone.

St. Mel's hosts 2 Weekly Meetings:

Mondays – 7:30 PM (Beginners)
Thursdays – 8:00 PM

Meetings are held in Serenity Hall. Entrance on 26th Ave / School Yard

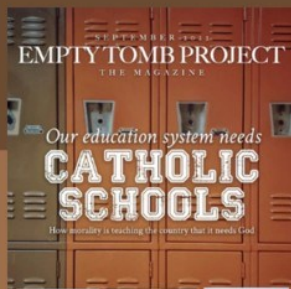
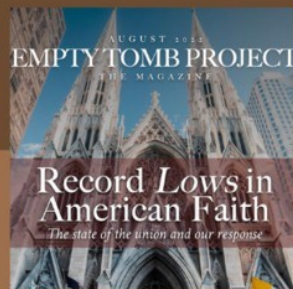
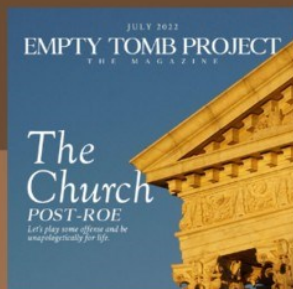
EMPTY TOMB PROJECT

THE MAGAZINE



A CATHOLIC MAGAZINE FOR LONG ISLAND

Empty Tomb Project is a non-profit organization that exists to bring its viewers into contact with Jesus as a real living person and inspire faith through dynamic, relevant and free content.



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VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

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COPIES WILL BE DROPPED IN THE CHURCH THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

St. Mel's 2nd Annual Cigar Night



Thursday
October 5th, 2023



6:00 - 10:00PM



Bourbon Street
40-12 Bell Blvd
Bayside, NY 11361

Join us for our
2nd Annual Cigar Night!
All proceeds benefit
St. Mel's Catholic Academy



All tickets must be purchased in
advanced from the Rectory or
Main Office starting August 25th





Stars of Hope

At our Welcome Back BBQ we will be decorating Stars of Hope to send to Sacred Hearts School in Lahaina, Hawaii!

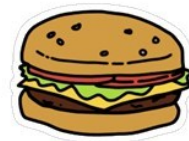
Stars of HOPE is a community arts and disaster relief initiative started by the New York Says Thank You Foundation in 2007. Stars of HOPE provides a path to healing designed by survivors for survivors. They provide research-based coping techniques and compassionate social support to those in the days, weeks, and years following a life-altering tragedy.

\$ 5 Donation per STAR

Join us for a



BBQ



The St. Mel's Welcome Back BBQ

Friday, September 15th

7:00 PM

FOOD DRINKS DESSERT

This is a free event

50/50 DRAWING

Please call or email to RSVP

Joseph Vitobello (917) 929-4505 / vjvito@aol.com

Tony Flynn (917) 376-5286 / ma2kflynn@yahoo.com

Frank Keppel (718) 873-6759 / kepsenior@yahoo.com

Rain Date: September 22nd





The Places for the Faithful

When speaking about places for everyone in church, let's not forget most of the people who make up the Church!

"Places for the faithful should be arranged with appropriate care so that they are able to participate in the sacred celebrations, duly following them with their eyes and their attention. It is desirable that benches or seating usually should be provided for their use. However, the custom of reserving seats for private persons is to be reprobated. Moreover, benches or seating should be so arranged, especially in newly built churches, that the faithful can easily take up the bodily postures required for the different parts of the celebration and can have easy access for the reception of Holy Communion.

Care should be taken to ensure that the faithful be able not only to see the Priest, the Deacon, and the readers but also, with the aid of modern technical means, to hear them without difficulty." (GIRM, 311)

The US Bishops add: "[While] there are no universal norms regarding fixed or flexible seating the diocesan bishop may issue further directives in this area. . . Kneelers or kneeling cushions should also be provided so that the whole congregation can easily kneel when the liturgy calls for it" (87, 86).

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manny.delmas.jfjp@statefarm.com

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