# **Church of Saint Mel**

2615 154th St., Flushing, NY 11354

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

www.stmels-queens.org



### 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.

### **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

# 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.

### **EUCHARISTIC 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.

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."



This past Tuesday I resumed meeting with the pastors / priests living and serving in our Flushing – Whitestone area. As dean of this half of Northern Queens, Bishop Brennan has asked me to host these monthly meetings to foster the fraternity among our priests so that supportive of one another we can better minister to the needs of those entrusted to our care. Moving forward, we plan to include in later meetings other pertinent members of our respective parish staffs as well as the input of invited parishioners.

In addition to my service as a dean, I am also responsible for the ongoing formation of the priests of our diocese. Bi-annually we come together with Bishop Brennan for an afternoon of reflection, prayer, and fraternity. On Wednesday we will gather in Douglaston for our Fall Convocation. Normally, I arrange for a guest speaker to address us. Bishop Brennan asked to lead this Wednesday's program. Entitled "A shepherd among shepherds. A bishop

with his priests", Bishop Brennan plans to give a "state of the diocese" address and to encourage all the deaneries to advance their discussions and preparation for parish partnerships.

Considering the decline in Mass attendance across the diocese and the diminishing number of active parish priests, changes in our parochial structure will be forthcoming. Each parish is being asked to review and ultimately reduce its Mass schedule. We are also being asked to combine, where possible, resources in pastoral outreach and faith formation.

Unaware of how these changes will impact St. Mel's, we remain hopeful in the Lord who promised to 'never leave us and to remain with us always.'

United in faith and love, Father Fonti



	Mass Intentions - September 24, 2023
SAT	9/23
5:00	Clorinda Carullo
SUN	9/24
7:30	Fred Seyford
9:00	Michelangelo DeVincentis
	Lino Di Camillo
	Deceased Members of The Mazzoni & D'Alessio Families
	The People of The Parish
10:30	John Donelan
12:00	Jeane Grotano & Rick Grotano
MON	9/25
7:00	Dorothea Addeo
9:00	Charles Fauci
TUES	9/26
7:00	In Loving Memory and Thanksgiving for our Transplant Dono
9:00	Antonio Cafarelli Sr.
WED.	9/27
7:00	Dorothea Addeo
9:00	Hugh A. Canavan
THURS	5. 9/28
7:00	Ivan Antolos
9:00	Marietta & Francesco Barretta
FRI.	9/29
7:00	Vice, Paskalda, & Jerry Antolos
9:00	Emilia, Antonio Vallerugo, Linda & Frederick Mare
SAT	9/30
9:00	Deceased Members of The Mazzoni & D'Alessio Families
	Rose Goldberg
	Domenico Fazzi
5:00	Philip Venditti
SUN	10/1
7:30	Zygmunt Wartski
9:00	Francesco Baldo (60th Wedding Anniversary in Heaven)
	Magheritta & Domenico Petruso & Domenico Casabianca
	Salvatore Romano
	Deceased Members of the Mazzoni & D'Alessio Families
	Ricardo Martinez
	The People of The Parish
10:30	Vito LaRocca
12:00	Ivanica & Kazimir Boncic



### **Bread & Wine**

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

Domenico Fazzi

Given by: The Fazzi Family



## **Altar Candles**

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

Giuseppe Zuccarello

Given by: Carmela Puleri



### **Sanctuary Candles**

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

The Deceased Members of the Fonti Family



Newly Enrolled in the Purgatorial Society

### August, 2023

Marko Bradica
John Williams
Dorothy J. Saluga
Stefano Inzalaco
Darko Kovacic
Ava Salonia
Trinidad Munoz
John F. Rossi

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.
- Lisa Sperazza
- Susan Trezioso
- Nick Roberto
- Pasqualina Lucciola
- Julia Rollo
- Francesca Cecile
- Angelo Ragonese
- Nick O'Donnell
- Patricia O'Donnell
- Kristian Mendez
- Jennifer Russo
- Roseann Orlando
- Barbara Ann Luisi
- Tom Sammel
- Freda Cassini
- Jacinta Carolan
- Assunta Goldone
- Kruno Pandzic
- Carol Sturm
- Martha Catul
- Dominick Fortino
- RoseAnn Dell Apenna
- Alida Addeo
- Yolanda Gatti
- Patricia Parrish
- Carmen A. Leites
- Carollynn Freeda
- Anthony Marino
- Mario Sumberac
- Helen Sumberac
- George Behringer
- Avery Santiago

- Ari Ortiz
- Susan Caraher
- Brian Finnerty
- Robert Muller
- Lee Ragusa
- Paul Adessa
- Joanne Perricelli Drenckhahn
- Dottie Giordano
- Siena Rose Romagnuolo
- David G.
- Rosa Annibale
- Patricia White
- Mia Elizabeth Skaats
- Nicky O'Donnell
- Jimmy Caraher
- John Holmes
- Venice Hernandez
- Gloria Ubertini
- Eileen McBride
- Cami Yandoli
- Lynn Gallagher
- John Paul Yezzo
- Niki Angelopoulous
- Valerie Albano Krug
- Bryan Day
- Theresa Bedell
- Karen Youdell
- Elizabeth DiCamtli
- Angela Infantino
- Carol VitoBello
- Giovanna Palmese

We pray for those recently deceased from our parish:

Justino Lopez & Nicoletta Marino

# **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



"United in Communion / United in Charity"

ST. MEL'S 2023 GOAL: \$ 84,065

**Already Pledged: \$120,143.64** 

165 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.

# We would like to thank the following people and businesses for their generosity towards our Welcome Back BBQ.







Grandma's Bakery - Brooklyn NY

Erin's Isle - Whitestone, NY

Michael Addeo

Martin's Bread & Pastry Shoppe

**Shop & Go Liquor Store - Maspeth, NY** 

**Key Food Supermarket - Whitestone, NY** 

FDNY & Captain Joseph DelliGatti,

**NYPD & 109 PCT** 

**Chief Charles McEvoy, NYPD** 

Marino's Supermarket - Whitestone, NY

Mario's Pizza - Whitestone, NY

**Onpoint Pharmacy - Whitestone, NY** 

**Pride Pest Control - Flushing, NY** 

Whitestone Auto Center - Whitestone, NY

Re-Action Auto & Truck Center - Whitestone, NY

Magic Collision Center - Whitestone, NY

Gino's of Whitestone - Whitestone, NY

Sergimmo Salumeria - Whitestone, NY

**Jeffrey Cornwall** 

### STEM and Faith Intersect in New St. Mel's Catholic Academy Mural

September 18, 2023 By <u>Alicia Venter</u>

FLUSHING — Before street artist Efren Andaluz picks up any paint can to start a mural, he prays to God to guide his hand. Those prayers were answered as he reimagined the entryway to St. Mel's Catholic Academy.

Now, Instead of plain white walls, as soon as students or parents walk through the front doors at St. Mel's, they are welcomed with the larger-than-life face of a girl, illuminated in neon pink. If they turn slightly left, they'll see the image of a soaring rocket fashioned from crayons. Turning the other way, they see the face of Jesus and Moses on Mount Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments.

All of these images represent the efforts of St. Mel's to foster the spiritual and intellectual growth of the school's 230 kindergarten-through-sixth-grade student body.

It took Andaluz, 36, a little over three weeks and an array of colors from 100 different paint cans this summer to create the piece, which, he explained, represents the intersection of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and faith. The two aren't in conflict in the artist's eyes.

"There's no science without God," Andaluz believes. "God created everything mathematically in balance in the form that it needed to be created."

St. Mel's third grader Harley Leo, 8, said that when she saw the mural for the first time when she arrived for the first day of school, she was "really shocked at how beautiful it was. It was so beautiful it almost made me cry." Its religious imagery reminds her, she added, that God is always watching over her.

Another third grade student, Jacob Morgan, was equally impressed, and welcomed the change of scenery at the entryway, proclaiming: "It's a new year, so you've got to get new stuff."

Andaluz said he followed his creative instincts in crafting the mural, choosing radiant colors for the educational aspect, and more solemn tones for the religious imagery, highlighted by a glowing cross.

He said he's been an artist since his adolescent years, starting with exploration into comic book sketches. His decision to focus on street art was sealed after a 25-foot Pokémon mural he created in 2016 in Huntington, Long Island, garnered widespread social media attention.

In 2020, he once again gained national attention after creating a mural across from Barclays Center in downtown Brooklyn that commemorated Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna Bryant after they died in a helicopter crash on Jan. 26, 2020.

A member of the St. Mel's board of directors found Andaluz through the internet, where he can be found on Instagram @andaluztheartist and his website andaluztheartist.com. With this year being the <u>50th anniversary of Hip Hop</u>, "Andaluz the Artist" has spent 2023 painting famous artists in the genre.

St. Mel's Catholic Academy was slated to be closed in August 2020. However, a creative solution presented by principal Amy Barron and Church of St. Mel Pastor Father Joseph Fonti resulted in the then-kindergarten-through-eighth-grade school being transformed into an early education center, teaching through third grade. Another grade level has been added ever since, and school officials are hopeful they'll be able to once again return to K-through-8 status.

The new mural symbolizes St. Mel's revitalization, said Barron, who has served as principal at the academy since September 2019.

There is a focus in the school's curriculum on STEM education, she said, which is highlighted in the mural, along with a continuing emphasis on cultivating Catholic faith and morals in the students through their education.

"We educate minds, bodies, and souls. We wanted to make sure that was reflected in the mural," Barron said.





# St. Mel's Catholic Academy Celebrates the Start of a New Year!



This year's Welcome Back BBQ was quite a success and a great opportunity for our school and parish communities to come together to welcome everyone back from the summer and kick off a new year. There was plenty of food and fun for the young and the young at heart. We would like to especially thank the Men's Club for all of their work in hosting this event and their generous donation to our school well as all those who sponsored the event (see list of sponsors in bulletin) We would also like to thank the FDNY and NYPD who once again not only brought the fun but also lifesaving information to our children. A great time was had by all!!

































# **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 20<sup>th</sup>. 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.

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.

# St. Mel's 2nd Annual Cigar Night



Thursday
October 5th, 2023



6:30 - 10:30PM



Bourbon Street 40-12 Bell Blvd Bayside, NY 11361 Join us for our
2nd Annual Cigar Night!
All procceeds benefit
St. Mel's Catholic Academy



Ticket Price \$150

Includes Food, Open Bar, and Cigars

All tickets must be purchased in advanced at the Rectory or Main Office (718) 539-8211



# 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 26-15 154<sup>th</sup> Street, Flushing, N.Y. 11354.

### FLUSHING FIRST FRIDAY CLUB

The Flushing First Friday Club will meet on Friday, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>. Mass will be at Verdi's of Whitestone at 12 Noon with lunch immediately following. Cost, \$45 for a four-course meal, coffee and dessert. Our Speaker will be the Rev. Kevin P. Abels, Pastor of Our Lady of Angels, Brooklyn, NY.

### 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 pregarono 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 las santitá 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 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





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 26<sup>th</sup> Ave / School Yard

## 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 was on Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. 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.





## November 3-5, 2023

When you save a marriage - you save a family!

Mary & Kevin Ginnane Community Coordinators longisland@helpourmarriage.org

516.922.9337



# Italian Classes At St. Luke School

Registration takes place on Monday September 25 & October 2 From 6:30PM –8:00PM in the school cafeteria. Classes are offered for children ages 3 and up and adults.

For more information call Damiana at 718-746-6269

In-person classes will begin Monday, October 16

### "WHOEVER EATS THIS BREAD WILL LIVE FOREVER"









### Saturday, October 7, 2023 Maimonides Park, Brooklyn

8:00 AM Gates Open (greetings by Jornada Movement Music Ministry)

8:30 AM Praise and worship with Alverlis followed by the rosary

9:45 AM Liturgical Procession and Eucharistic Liturgy

11:15 AM Eucharistic Procession to Eucharistic Chapel

11:35 AM Break/Lunch

12 Noon Angelus and Youth and Young Adult Praise and worship

with Alverlis

1:00 PM Break

1:15 PM Family Catechesis with Deacon Matthew Halbach

2:15 PM Break

2:30 PM Vocations Talk and testimonials with Fr. Timothy Anastos

3:00 PM Benediction and Dismissal

Join the Diocese of Brooklyn for a day of Prayer and Worship With appreciation to:





A Celebration of Catholic Families, the Joy of the Gospel and Eucharist.

### Sign up today by contacting your parish rectory!

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DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

## Processione e Messa in onore Santi Gioacchino e Anna

Messa celebrata da S. E. Mons. Nicholas DiMarzio, Concelebrazione dai sacerdoti dell'Apostolato!

Con una particolare benedizione per i Nonni

## 1 ottobre 2023 Processione alle 3 pm - S. Messa alle 4 pm



Procession and Mass in honor of the Holy Grandparents Ss. Joachim and Anne

> Celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio

With a Special Blessing for all Grandparents.

### **October 1, 2023**

Procession at 3 pm begins at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 2117 45th St, Astoria Mass at 4 pm at Immaculate Conception Church, 2147 29th St, Astoria

- Light refreshments following Mass -



# The Baptismal Font

Our "Life in Christ" begins not at the hospital but at the Baptismal Font. Through baptism we are freed from sin, reborn as children of God, and incorporated into the Church Community. It is so essential that Church law mandates: "Every parish church is to have a baptismal font." (Can. 858 §1)

The US Bishops in their document on church architecture further elaborate: "It is customary to locate the baptismal font either in a special area within the main body of the church or in a separate baptistry." (67) The bishops add the following criteria for the font: "There should be one font that will accommodate the baptism of both infants and adults using either of the two normative practices of immersion in water or infusion (pouring on) of water. If located by the entrance or gathering space the font can symbolize the relationship between Christian Life and Worship. If located near the altar or ambo it can help root baptism with the other rites and rituals experienced through the Christian Journey." (69)

Wherever found the baptismal font is a constant and present reminder for all the faithful not about being baptized on a passed date but about living that spiritual covenant in the present day. It's not that "I was baptized on whatever date but that I am baptized every day since."

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Please contact Benny at 917-881-9149 for further information.

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