# **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**

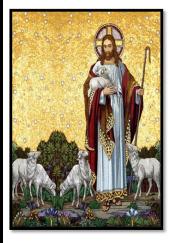
Each Monday after the 9:00 A.M. Mass. Blessed Sacrament Devotions: First Friday Adoration 9:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. Daily Recitation of the Rosary: 8:30 A.M.

### **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. "It is in pardoning that we are pardoned." – Prayer of St. Francis



Famous for its beauty and picturesque views, the medieval town of Gubbio in the Umbrian region of Italy attracts many visitors especially those with a devotion to St. Francis.

According to legend, the townsfolk of Gubbio appealed to St. Francis for help when a rogue wolf terrorized their town. Gifted with the ability to commune with animals, St. Francis came to the aid of the citizens of Gubbio by having a face-to-face encounter with the wild beast.

During his exchange with the wolf, the animal told Francis that it was acting out of fear. Separated from its pack, it killed to survive. Seeking to make amends, the wolf accompanied Francis to the gates of the town where it asked the people for forgiveness through the intercession of St. Francis. Amazingly,

they forgave the wolf, and it never terrorized them again. In fact, the wolf lived peacefully among the people of Gubbio for several years being cared for and fed by them.

This story highlights the power of forgiveness, that it knows no bounds! It also shows why the Church entrusted the care of animals to St. Francis.

In keeping with tradition, I will bless animals/pets this coming Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, at 4:30 pm in the school yard.

All four-legged, two-legged, no-legged animals welcomed.

Father Fonti



# Mass Intentions - October 1, 2023

SAI	7/50
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
	Elizabeth DiCampli
	The People of The Parish
10:30	Vito LaRocca
12:00	Ivanica & Kazimir Boncic
MON	10/2
7:00	James Geraghty & Jesse Peterman
9:00	Rose & Rocco Renze
TUES	10/3
7:00	Carlo Magagna
9:00	Adriano Colalillo
WED.	10/4
7:00	Dorothea Addeo
9:00	Frank Rappa
THURS.	10/5
7:00	Miro, Ante, & Nikoleta Grando
9:00	Lelio, Roberto, Enrico, Francesca Mazzoni, & Maria Scopa
FRI.	10/6
7:00	Purgatorial Society
9:00	Marino Foschi
SAT	10/7
9:00	The Mocarski, McAllister, & Naclerio Families
	Carlos Alberto Espinosa
	Mary Paront-Gorman
	Domenica Delaurentis
5:00	Salvatore Faraci, Salvatore Vitale, & Maria Pellerito
SUN	10/8
7:30	Iemma & Soressi Families
9:00	Antonina Meli
	Michael Bedosky
	Americo Chima, Anna & Angelo Graci, & Carmelo Giardir
	The People of The Parish
10:30	Miro Boncic & Vera Stipicevic
12:00	Walter Ilchert (4th Anniversary in Heaven)



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
- Avery Santi
   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
- Eileen McBride
- Cami Yandoli
- Lynn Gallagher
- John Paul Yezzo
- Niki AngelopoulousValerie Albano Krug
- Valerie AlbaneBryan Day
- Bryan Day
  Theresa Bedell
- Karen Youdell
- Angela Infantino
- Angela Infantino
   Carol VitoBello
- Giovanna Palmese

We pray for those recently deceased from our parish:

#### **Deacon Antonio Gonzalez**



First Friday Adoration is October 6th following the 8:00 AM Mass. Benediction is at 12:00 PM. In the event of a funeral Adoration will be held in the chapel.



"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)

### <u>A Prayer for Increasing Enrollment in</u> <u>Catholic Schools</u>

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.

# LAST CALL FOR TICKETS!

# St. Mel's 2nd Annual Cigar Night



Thursday October 5th, 2023

6:30 - 10:30PM



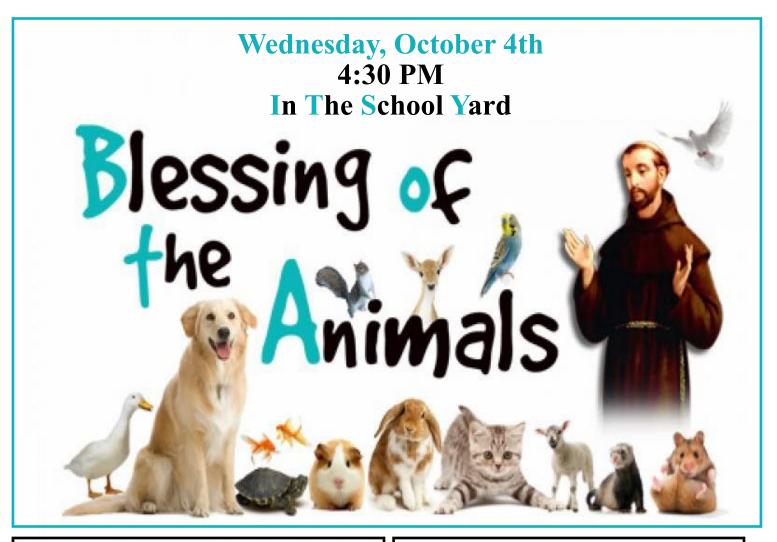
Bourbon Street 40-12 Bell Blvd Bayside, NY 11361 Join us for our 2nd Annual Cigar Night! All procceeds benefit St. Mel's Catholic Academy



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



This Thursday!



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



### 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.



# St. Mel's Catholic Academy Check out our new Rec Room!



Who says you can't have fun on a rainy day? Last year, we installed the indoor gross motor room for our 3K/PK students to give them a place to play and climb when they couldn't go outside. The kids loved it and that got us thinking, what about our bigger kids? What can they do when the weather is too cold or rainy for them to go out at recess? They needed an indoor space as well... and so the Wildcat rec room was born. Thanks to some of our parents and grandparents who did some of the remodeling, the Greater Ridgewood Youth Council and the PAA, our rec room is stocked with games and crafts to keep our big kids busy and entertained for recess even when they can't go outside. Let's take a peek.



"Board games are the art of strategy and chance, wrapped up in a world of imagination " - author unknown

























### **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 was Wednesday, September 20th and was a big success! It was wonderful to see so many new and familiar faces. We are looking forward to a faith filled new year with the children. If you have not already done so, it is not too late to register 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 mariamarotta@stmels-queens.org

### Farewell to Denise DeRosa ...

There will be a celebratory send-off for Denise De Rosa our Co-Director of Faith Formation on Sunday, October 15th. Denise recently announced her retirement from St. Mel's. It will take place in Father O'Malley Hall following the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Join us in saying farewell and thank you for all her years of hard work and dedication.









## 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.



### 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.

## **Italian Heritage Month**

RARAR

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.

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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.

### 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. <u>Our</u> <u>First Meeting for 2023-2024 was on Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.</u> 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

ITALY

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

### 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 fourcourse meal, coffee and dessert. Our Speaker will be the Rev. Kevin P. Abels, Pastor of Our Lady of Angels, Brooklyn, NY.

# **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

# A Prayer for POLICE OFFICERS

Almighty God ~ We pray that you watch over our police and law officers each day as they keep us safe in our homes and on our streets.

Dear God, their work is often stressful and dangerous so we humbly place them in your care. We pray that you shield them from harm as they carry out their service on our behalf.

Please give these brave men and women your Almighty protection and unite them safely with their loved ones at the end of every day. ~ Amen



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





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



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

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

With

appreciation to:

Sponsored by:

1:00 PM

1:15 PM

2:15 PM

2:30 PM

3:00 PM

Break

Break

**Benediction and Dismissal** 





Join the Diocese of Brooklyn for

a day of Prayer and Worship



Family Catechesis with Deacon Matthew Halbach

Vocations Talk and testimonials with Fr. Timothy Anastos





For more details scan the QR code or visit: dioceseofbrooklyn.org/ER





PARISH BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP St. Luke Church

# Meets every 1st Tuesday of every month.



This group provides emotional assistance for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

If you are interested in participating in these meetings **you must** contact **Sister Theresa at (718) 746-8531.** 

Sister also offers individual Bereavement Counseling Sessions where needed. Please remember to pray for all who are grieving the loss of loved ones.



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



# The Paschal Candle

The large candle near the baptismal font is the paschal candle. The word *paschal* comes from the Latin for "Passover"— just another reminder of the Christian faith's Jewish roots. It is the candle lit and borne in procession at the Great Easter Vigil from which the whole church receives its light after the darkness of Good Friday and Holy Saturday. The paschal candle should be lit during the Easter liturgies and ideally when the faithful gather in church during Eastertide.

The US bishops write: "During the Easter Vigil and throughout the Easter season, the paschal candle belongs near the ambo or in the middle of the sanctuary. After the Easter season it is moved to a place of honor in the baptistry for use in the celebration of baptisms. During funerals the paschal candle is placed near the coffin as a sign of the Christian's passover from death to life" (*Built of Living Stones*, 94).

The paschal candle is to be made of beeswax and should be replaced each Easter Vigil with a new one. It should be sizable enough to be a recognizable focal point as the sacramental sign of Jesus Christ, Conqueror of sin and death. It's a sign of rebirth, God's splendor, and entrance to the promised land that Christ has opened to us.

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