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

Kelsey Sheldon

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

Paula Migliore 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.

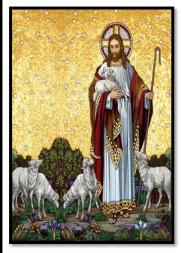
EVANGELIZATION

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.

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?"



The horrific news reports coming out of Israel this past week detailing the barbaric mistreatment of innocent men, woman, and children are disgusting and unbelievable.

Added to the atrocities is the growing number of casualties on both sides of the Gaza Strip, an unavoidable and most unfortunate consequence of war.

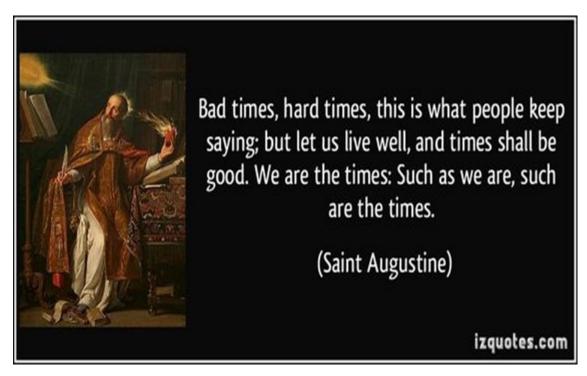
Our psyches are flooded with negative news. Whether the culprit is evil hands or natural causes, the plight and pain of others demands so much of our attention these days that many of us question: "Are these the end times?"

"You will neither know the day nor the hour", Jesus tells us (Matthew 25:13). He also cautions us: "Take care that no one deceives you...You will hear of wars and rumors of wars; do not be alarmed, for this is something that must happen, but the end will not be yet. For nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes here and there. All this is only the beginning of the birth pangs" (Matthew 24:4-8)."

Newborns come forth in blood and through pain. We also believe that death gives way to new life.

If these aren't the end times, we should see them as a time of reinvestment; as a time to express more publicly and faithfully our faith, hope, and love.

Father Fonti



Mass Intentions - October 15, 2023

SAT	10/14
5:00	Wanda Wartski
SUN	10/15
7:30	Patricia Occhipinti
9:00	Giuseppe Belulovich
	Carmelo Giardina & Americo Chima
	The People of The Parish
10:30	Bruno Family, Delisi Family, Vera Weinruth
12:00	Eugene McCrann
MON	10/16
7:00	Davor Cimera
9:00	Maria & Romano Flaim
TUES	10/17
7:00	Frank Rappa
9:00	Jean Alberti
WED.	10/18
7:00	William Marano
9:00	Thomas Muratore Sr. (Birthday)
THURS	. 10/19
7:00	Grace Mary Fleming
9:00	Vincent & Rosaria Rappa, Frank Rappa, & Salvatore Rappa
FRI.	10/20
7:00	Louis Fonti III
9:00	Francesco & Marietta Barretta
SAT	10/21
9:00	Sammy Geraci
	Elizabeth DiCampli
	Flavia Contratti
	Rosaleen Segrave (Happy Birthday)
	Gina Segrave
5:00	Michael Bedosky & Andrew Orlando
SUN	10/22
7:30	The People of The Parish
9:00	Stefano Inzalaco
	Colagero & Giuseppa Cinquemani
10:30	Robert & Marlene Johnston
12:00	Joan Conners





Bread & Wine

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

Patricia Occhipinti

Given by: Salvatore Occhipinti



Altar Candles

This week the Altar Candles are donated for the Intentions of:

Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness



Sanctuary Candles

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

Grace Mary Fleming



Newly Enrolled in the Purgatorial Society

September, 2023

James P. Farnochi Edward Crimmins Nicoletta Marino

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 CatulDominick 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
- Eileen McBride
- Cami Yandoli
- Lynn Gallagher
- John Paul Yezzo
- Niki Angelopoulous
- Valerie Albano Krug
- Bryan Day
- Theresa Bedell
- Karen Youdell
- Angela Infantino
- Carol VitoBello
- Giovanna Palmese
- Anthony Rubinich

We pray for those recently deceased from our parish:

Msgr. Anthony Sherman, Grace Picerno



"United in Communion / United in Charity"

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

Already Pledged: \$120,243.64

165 Pledges

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

Parish Partnerships are seriously being considered for our deanery and in and our diocese. To help us understand the process, I will be publishing in our weekly bulletin our Sunday Mass attendance numbers so that if in the future there is a change made to our Mass schedule, we will understand that the change was not solely predicated on the number of parish priests, but on the data.

October 8, 2023 Mass Attendance Total = 652

5:00 PM—128 7:30 AM—85 9:00 AM—103 10:30 AM—176 12:00 PM—160

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.

Some Clergy Personnel Statistics

Diocesan Clergy	2017	2022	8/31/2023
Priests assigned to active ministry	273	255	255*
Retired Priests	148	143	130
Total	421	398	385

^{* 206} assigned to parishes

Number of priests Age Range	2017	2022	6/30/2023
26-30	14	1	0
31-40	37	39	42
41-50	42	44	51
51-60	72	71	64
61-70	90	77	76
71-74	46	48	41
76-99	120	118	111
TOTAL	421	398	385

	THE RESERVE AND PARTY OF THE PA		A PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF
Was Impardingted	56	85	70*
Non-Incardinated	50	00	10

Does not include 134 religious order clergy

Meet Kelsey Sheldon The New Music Director



Greetings, parishioners of St. Mel's! I am very excited to be joining the pastoral team here and look forward to getting to know all of you. It is my goal to share my love and knowledge of music with others - whether from the organ, behind my cello, or with my voice. I have been working in sacred settings as Music Director since I graduated from the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College. Please don't be shy - feel free to introduce yourself and your family to me after Mass! I would also love to hear from anyone who is interested in joining the choir let's come together to keep making everyone's experience at St. Mel's a prayerful and musical one.





Request from St. Mel's new Music Director - a meeting of the musical minds!





I would like to meet all of the parishioners wishing to sing in the choir at St. Mel's. Whether you've been in the choir for 10 years, 6 months or have just been considering/curious about joining, I want to connect with you and talk about our upcoming Masses and holidays. We will be meeting on Thursday, October 19th (that's **this** Thursday) in Mary's Room at 6pm. Light refreshments will be provided and banter will be exchanged! Bring your choir folders if you have them, and also your vocal cords - because we may be inspired enough to make some music as well. See you then! Please enter on 27th Avenue, through he doors of the church.

Kelsey

ksheldon@stmels-queens.org

We have 20 complimentary tickets. Call the rectory 718-886-0201. First come first served.





St. Mel's Catholic Academy Blessing All of God's Creatures



On October 4th, the Catholic Church celebrated the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis saw God reflected in nature and shared his love for animals and the environment. He is known as the patron saint of animals and ecology and it has become a tradition to bless our pets and animals on his Feast Day. Father Fonti invited the St. Mel's community to bring their pets to be blessed in the schoolyard. It was so nice to see some of our students, recent alum, teachers and the whole parish community bring their furry, feathery, and even scaly friends out for the special blessing. Our pets are an important part of our families, and give love unconditionally...just like how God loves us.









"Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened" Anatole France - French author and poet



























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

SAVE THE DATE - Sunday, October 29, 2023, at 10:30 am Mass

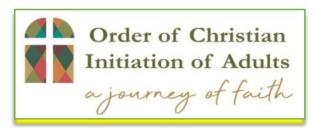
Family Grade Mass for Children from St. Mel's Academy and School of Religion – Grades 1 &3

All are invited for light refreshments and breakfast treats following Mass in O'Malley Hall.



◆ Are you a practicing adult Catholic (18+) seeking the sacrament of Confirmation, who has been baptized and have received your first Holy Communion?

If you answered yes, to this question, we invite you to participate in our Adult Confirmation Program which would prepare you to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Pentecost. The Adult Confirmation Program presents an overview of the essentials of the Catholic Faith, focusing on immediate catechesis for the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation. The program includes presentations, group discussion, reflection, and prayer.



- 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 or at 718-461-9840



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.

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 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.





November 3-5, 2023

When you save a marriage - you save a family!

Mary & Kevin Ginnane Community Coordinators longisland@helpourmarriage.org

516.922.9337

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



FLEASE

TURN OFF CELL PHONES



Thank you!

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 26th Ave / School Yard

0076



FREE SEATS
STILL AVAILABLE (age 4)
Call or Email Mrs. Ligurgo
mligurgo@stmelsschool.org
718-539-8211







trunk-or-treat

Located at Harpell's Parking Lot, across from the Pharmacy 14th and 150th Street

October 22, 2023 | 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM (Rain Date October 29, 2023)

Free Admission | Prizes

To participate with a vehicle and treats, visit: www.WeLoveWhitestone.com/trunk-or-treat or Scan the QR code



Car Responsibilities:
Pick a theme and decorate your trunk
Bring candy to give out to the trunk or treaters (Remember it's better to have extra than not enough)





Queens Garden Nursery



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.

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



Confessional or

Reconciliation Room

The Confessional or Reconciliation Room is where God sacramentally forgives sins and restores broken relationships through the ministry of the Church. Canon Law dictates that the best place to celebrate the Rite of Penance is in a church. "The bishops of the United States have directed that the place for sacramental confession be visible and accessible, that it contain a fixed grille [or screen to insure anonymity if desired by the penitent], and that it allow for confession face-to-face for those who wish to do so." (Living Stones, 103)

"In planning the reconciliation area, parishes will want to provide for a sound-proof place with a chair for the priest and a kneeler and chair for the penitent. Since the rite includes the reading of Scripture, the space should also include a bible.

Appropriate artwork, a crucifix . . ., [icons] help to enhance the atmosphere of prayer. Warm, inviting lighting welcomes penitents who seek God's help and some form of amplification as well as braille signs can aid those with hearing or visual disabilities. Additional rooms or spaces will be needed as confessional areas for communal celebrations of penance, especially in Advent and Lent." (105)

Where are the Confessionals in your church?

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manny.delmas.jfpj@statefarm.com

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4-5 hours per day. Must be able to speak Italian or Sicilian.

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

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Deve parlare L'italiano o Siciliano.

Contattare Benny a 917-881- 9149 per ulteriori informazioni. Family Dentistry

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