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.





A few weeks ago, we turned our clocks back an hour to conserve daylight.

Today we turn our attention to "the Light" that never ends!

Called each Advent to renew our faith and hope in Jesus, the Church encourages her children to do a spiritual prep for Christmas by listening more attentively to the Word of God and relying more readily on the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Foretold by the prophets of old and conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary, Jesus comes to us as He did to believers over 2,000 years ago, as "the Light shining in the darkness."

Bombarded by the world's darkness, we are compelled more than ever to bask in His Light. As many believe that an extra hour of daylight is good for our health and psyche, so too does the Church wholeheartedly believe and profess that the Light of Jesus heals and saves us...can and will save the world!

Available at the doors of the church this weekend are copies of the Word Among Us. Consider using it as an aid this Advent to assist you in deepening your knowledge and love of the Sacred Scripture.

I also encourage you to stand with me "in the light" as we gather on Friday, December 8th, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, at 6:00 PM for our Annual Tree Lighting.

May these next 4-weeks make each of us and our parish more radiate with the Light and Peace of Christ.

Father Fonti



Mass Intentions - December 3, 2023

SAT 12/2 Norma & Ugo Ciacco, & Teresa Ribarich 5:00 SUN 7:30 Marie Guerriero 9:00 Adriano Colalillo Carmelo Giardina, Anna & Angelo Graci, & Americo Chima Concetta DiMuro Francesco Canale Antonio Lalicata The People of The Parish 10:30 Maria Palma, Giuseppe Bonforte, Maria & Stefano Smolizza, Livio Smolizza, & Malfada Vucina 12:00 Domenico & Giovanna Brucculeri MON 12/4 7:00 George DeVardo 9:00 Marie Samson TUES 12/5 7:00 Dorothea Addeo 9:00 Deceased Members of Matula, Gajdostik, & McMahon Families WED. 12/6 7:00 Ante Grando 9:00 Adriano, Nicolina, Gaudenzio Colalillo & Luisa Malatesta **THURS. 12/7** 7:00 Lino Magagna (Anniversary) 9:00 Carlos Alberto Espinosa FRI. 12/8 Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception - Holy Day of Obligation 7:00 Louis Fonti 9:00 Maria Flaim 7:00pm Joseph McEnerey SAT 12/9 9:00 Kenneth J. Thornhill Nicoletta Signore & Roseann Genese Nicoletta Marino Hernan & Herman Ramirez 5:00 Lydia & Dominick Falivere (Happy Anniversary in Heaven) **SUN** 12/10 7:30 Tony Mirkov 9:00 Domenico Zampini Raymond & Gerarda Tamburro Salvatore Romano The People of The Parish 10:30 Peter LaRocca

12:00

Margaret & Patrick McGeever



Bread & Wine

This week the Bread and Wine are donated in Loving

Memory of:

Thomas Farrell



Altar Candles

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

Vincent Papa

Given by: Vincent & Eugenia Papa



Sanctuary Candles

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

Carmela & Benedict Zumpetta

Given by: The DeAnnuntis
Family



Newly Enrolled in the Purgatorial Society

November, 2023

Edward Sitler Mary Anne Lyons John A. Fernandez

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
- 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
- Olga Scopa
- Tom Hummel
- Edda Iacona

We pray for those recently deceased from our parish: Evon LaMagna, Eileen Lucchi, & Rita Riccardi Parish Partnerships are seriously being considered for our deanery and throughout 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.

November 26, 2023 Mass Attendance Total = 697

5:00 PM—139 7:30 AM—103 9:00 AM—108 10:30 AM—177 12:00 PM—170

The Peace Light Comes to St. Mel's!

The Girl Scouts of St. Mel's will distribute the peace light at the 5:00 PM Mass on Saturday Night.

While candles will be provided you can bring your own if you wish.



ST. LUCY December 10th A blessing will be given to eyes at the end of the 9:00 AM Italian Mass in honor of St. Lucy on December 10th.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Holy Day of Obligation Friday, December 8th

Mass Times: 7:00AM, 9:00AM, & 7:00 PM





Giving Tree

November 27th through December 17th

The Giving Tree last year was a great success. Together we were able to gift each group of religious women with \$1,472, and thirty of our homebound parishioners, each with gift cards in the amount of \$100—\$150.

Anticipating another year of generous outpouring and love, we invite you to join us as we brighten Christmas for these special groups: our parish Homebound, The Bridge to Life, and our friends: The Sisters of St. Joseph, The Sisters of St. Dominic and The Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm.

If you wish to support our outreach to the Homebound and The Bridge to Life you can purchase a gift card (any amount) from: Raindew, Met Fresh, Marino's, CVS, or a children's store for The Bridge to Life. Your gift will not only benefit our local merchants; but it will also make it easier for our Homebound parishioners to buy what they need. If you prefer, please make a check out for your desired gift and a member of the parish staff will purchase the gift card for you. The check should be made out to St. Mel's. In the memo, please indicate which business you wish to support.

Similarly, if you wish to support our religious women, please write your check to St. Mel's and indicate in the memo which community you wish to support.

Please place your gift in the wooden boxes located at the entrances of the church. Or if you wish, you can bring it to the rectory office.





At St. Mel's Catholic Academy...



We are Grateful!

November Students of the Month

Our value of the month of November was Gratitude. Here at St. Mel's teaching and living out gospel values is part of our mission. We are especially grateful for all of our students and for their unique gifts and talents. We would like to congratulate the following students for sharing their gracious spirit during the month of November:

3KA Emilia Enache PKA Riley Ho K1 Julianna DeClara Gr. 2 Martin Arpi Gr 5 Koey Ma 3KB Yong Ching Suriel PKB Brayden Cordero K2 Logan Torres Gr. 3 Michael Lazaro Gr. 6 Angelo Marino

3KC Maximus Liew PKC Marco Fabrizi Gr. 1 Amanda Almonte Gr. 4 Jasmine Munoz

Congratulations!





November 2023

Merry Christmas!

venmo

Dear St. Mel's Families and Friends,

The Christmas season is quickly approaching and just as the birth of Jesus illuminates our lives, we hope to illuminate St. Mel's Catholic Academy and Church. With a \$10 donation per bulb, a light will shine brightly at St. Mel's in honor of your family, relative, friend, special occasion or special intention. You may request as many bulbs as you would like to help us celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

If you would like to donate a bulb, please fill out the slip below and return it to school, or place in Church collection basket, in an envelope marked "Christmas Illumination" by **Monday December 4th.**

As Jesus is the light for all of our lives, we can symbolize his light by illuminating St. Mel's with thousands of bulbs. May the light of Jesus shine in our hearts, school, Church and community during this Christmas season and always. Thank you for your support and dedication to St. Mel's Catholic Academy and the greater St. Mel's community. We wish you and your family a very blessed Christmas.

	Amy Barron		
Name Address Number of bulbs Amount enclosed Special intention for the bulb(s). \$10 per bulb			
1	You can now pay us with Venmo Please write your name and "Christmas Illumination" in the description.		
4 5	— @ Saint-Mels		
6			

Christmas Toy Drive

***stmary's

Healthcare System for Children

DONATE A NEW, UNWRAPPED TOY FOR A CHILD THIS CHRISTMAS!

Please join us this Holiday Season in giving back to the community by participating in a Holiday Toy Drive! The Drive will run from November 20th through December 20th. Your donations of new and unwrapped toys will be brightening the holidays for the children of St. Mary's

Children's Hospital!

Contact: Melissamcoppola@gmail.com Robertstephen13@gmail.com Donnagee66@gmail.com

Drop Off Locations

Councilwoman Vickie Paladino's Office 20-15 Francis Lewis Blvd Whitestone, NY 11357

Christie Lauren 14-33 150th St, Queens, NY 11357

Larry's Auto Collision 15054 12th Ave, Whitestone, NY 11357

Patsy's Pizzeria 21-64 Utopia Pkwy, Queens, NY 11357

Prime Realty 250-02 Northern Blvd, Little Neck, NY 11362

St. Mel's Catholic Academy 154-24 26th Ave, Queens, NY 11354

Stonegate Real Estate 2a Poole St. Oceanside, NY 11572

Trattoria 35 213-15 35th Ave, Queens, NY 11361



Whitepoint Cleaners 132-07 14th Ave, Queens, NY 11356



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, Dec. 10th, 2023 at 10:30 am Mass

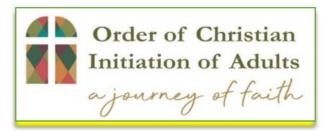
Family Grade Mass for Children from St. Mel's Academy and School of Religion – Grade 7

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 Sunday, May 28th. 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



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



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

PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES



Thank you!



Defensive Driving

Saturday, December 9th

In the Men's Club 9:00AM—3:30PM

\$50

Call Marty: 631-360-9720

GOOD DEEDS ADVENT CALENDAR



Give change to Salvation Army	Clean someone else's space	Write a note to someone	⁴ Make and hide a happy stone	Pay for someone's drink or meal	Spend quality time with someone
Donate some books	Bring a drink to a teacher or coworker	Send a card to someone	clean your room	Compliment Someone	Donate some clothes
Take a meal to someone	Say Something nice online	Donate to your favorite charity	Call your parents	Help out a family member	Volunteer out of the house
Double your tip	Donate a toy	Clean a stretch of road or park	Call a long distance relative	Make cookies for neighbors	Go caroling



The Immaculate Conception

of Mary

Without the benefit of modern science, the ancients understood there was life in the pregnant womb. By the fourth century, celebrations of the conception of Jesus on March 25, nine months before Christmas day, began (called the Annunciation because the Archangel Gabriel "announced" to Mary that she would conceive Jesus). A century later, the Eastern Church began celebrating the Feast of the Conception of *the Most Holy and All Pure* Mother of God on December 9. This celebration marking the beginning of Mary's life became extremely popular throughout the entire Church. In the West it came to be observed on December 8.

After consultation with the world's bishops, Pope Pius IX on December 8, 1854, pronounced that "the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin." This declaration codified the belief of the Roman Catholic Church and many Orthodox Churches.

Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception is Patroness of the Church in the USA (and the Diocese of Brooklyn). December 8 is a Holy Day of Obligation.

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



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