

# Church of Saint Mel

2615 154th St., Flushing, NY 11354

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

[www.stmels-queens.org](http://www.stmels-queens.org)



Sunday, December 10, 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](http://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.

## 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 consumerism competes with Christ at this time of year, I am always grateful whenever I see a car magnet or highway billboard reminding us to: “Keep Christ in Christmas.”

Vying for our attention with blinking storefronts and catchy commercial jingles, in many ways the secular world has taken Christ out of Christmas.

And so, how do we “Dream of a White Christmas” while preparing to celebrate a “Holy” one?

First, we acknowledge that there is a problem; that there is a lopsided view preventing us from seeing the Light of Christ amidst the others.

Second, we acquire a spiritual set of eyes by welcoming spiritual influences that will counteract the influx of opposing / competing messages. I offer these suggestions/invitations:

Last week I invited everyone to take a copy of the Word Among Us, a scriptural aid designed to keep us in touch with the Living Word of God. By daily reading and reflecting on God’s Holy Word we will remain grounded in faith and alive in hope.

Next Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> I invite you to join us for Lessons & Carols. See invite in this week’s bulletin. This longstanding Advent tradition dating back to the later part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century is a prayer service that traces humanity’s promised salvation from the Fall to the Birth of Christ through the Word of God and the singing of carols.

Lastly, Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, is Reconciliation Monday. Priests will be hearing confessions in every parish throughout our tri-diocesan family. A list of times in each of the parishes in our deanery will be published in next week’s bulletin.

Yes, “it’s starting to look a lot like Christmas.” Hopefully, not only outside. But on the inside as well.

Blessed Advent!

Father Fonti



## Mass Intentions - December 10, 2023

<b>SAT</b>	<b>12/9</b>
5:00	Lydia & Dominick Falivere (Happy Anniversary in Heaven)
<b>SUN</b>	<b>12/10</b>
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
<b>MON</b>	<b>12/11</b>
7:00	Dorothea Addeo
9:00	Mary Augustine
<b>TUES</b>	<b>12/12</b>
7:00	Thomas Snee
9:00	Mocarski, McAllister, & Naclerio Families
<b>WED.</b>	<b>12/13</b>
7:00	Giuseppe Zuccarello
9:00	Alice & Frank Renze
<b>THURS.</b>	<b>12/14</b>
7:00	Lelio, Roberto, Enrico, Francesca Manzoni, & Maria Scopa
9:00	Tony Mirkov
<b>FRI.</b>	<b>12/15</b>
7:00	Paride Rondinelli
9:00	Bill & Frances Savino
<b>SAT</b>	<b>12/16</b>
9:00	Plinio Lucciola Joan Thornhill Maria Concetta DiMuro Danny & William Marano Elizabeth Gasparri
5:00	Victor Papa
<b>SUN</b>	<b>12/17</b>
7:30	Janet Corrigan
9:00	Martina Bacarella & Anna Prainito Hugh Canavan Frank Rappa Ottavia Miniutti The People of The Parish
10:30	Francesco DiMaria
12:00	Bernadette McCrann



## Bread & Wine

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

***Adriano Colalillo & The  
Deceased Members***

***Gift Given by: His Beloved  
Family***



## Altar Candles

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

***Tony Mirkov***

***Gift Given by: Lily, Sam, &  
Eric***



## Sanctuary Candles

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

***Rosemarie D'Angelo***



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

**We pray for those recently deceased from our parish:**  
**Genevieve Eicher**

### **AN ADVENT PRAYER**

*God of hope, who brought love into this world,  
be the love that dwells between us.*

*God of hope, who brought peace into this world,  
be the peace that dwells between us.*

*God of hope, who brought joy into  
this world, be the joy that dwells  
between us.*

*God of hope, the rock we  
stand upon, be the center, the focus  
of our lives always, and particularly  
this Advent time. Amen.*

<http://facebook.com/fielsvd>

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.

**December 3, 2023**

**Mass Attendance Total = 616**

**5:00 PM—149**

**7:30 AM—84**

**9:00 AM—95**

**10:30 AM—153**

**12:00 PM—135**

### **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.



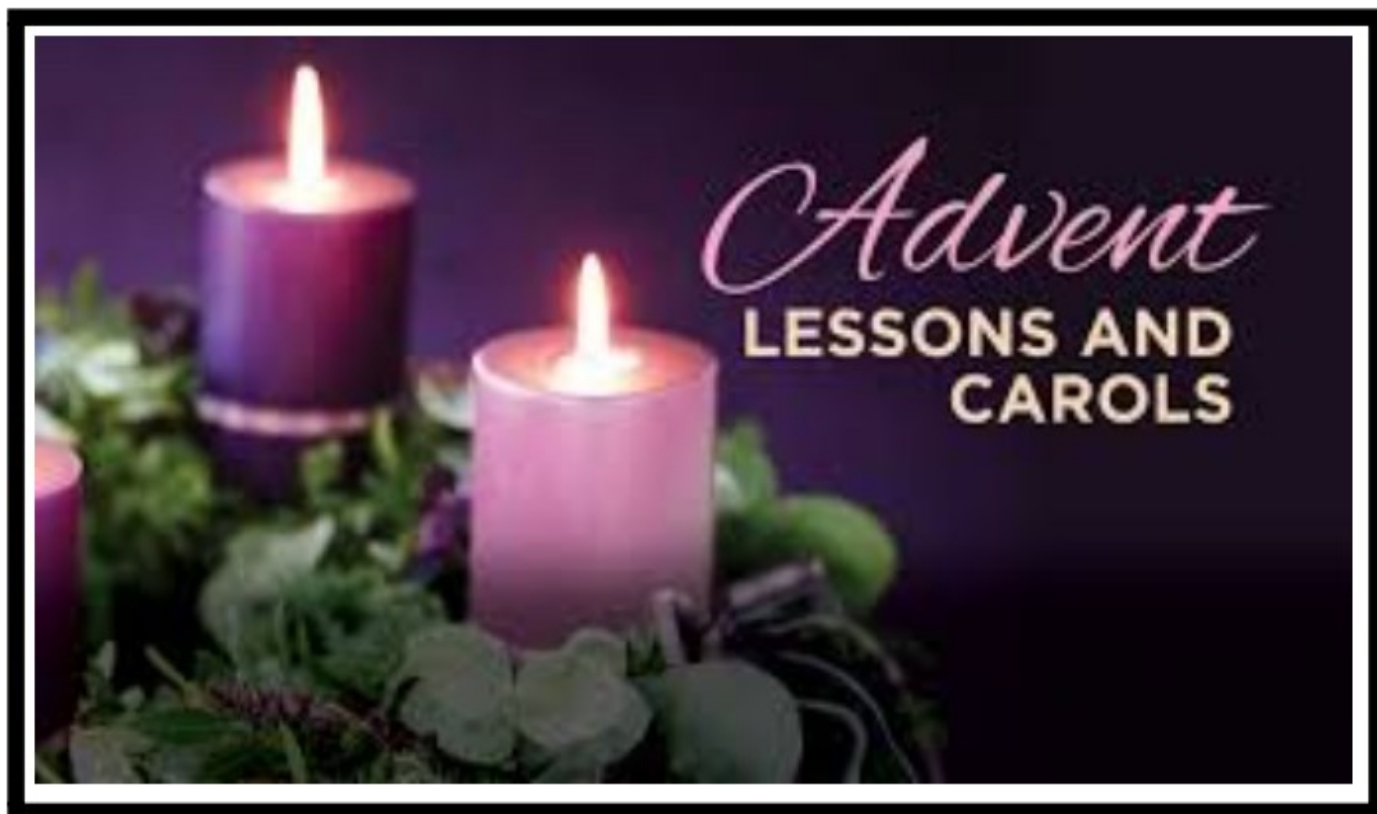


### A 'Note' from the Music Director

Hello, parishioners of St. Mel's! You are invited to attend this year's Advent Lessons and Carols service, which will take place on Sunday, December 17th at 4pm. The St. Mel's Choir has been busy preparing beautiful hymns to be sung in alternation with selected readings of the coming of Christ. There will be two guest vocalists and the somber and reflective sound of the cello as well. Please join us for this service to deepen your experience of Advent.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

~ Kelsey ~



***December 17th, 2023 at 4pm***



# 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

## The Halls are Alive with sound of Music

Although it was a bit of a late start this year, the halls of St. Mel's are once again filled with the joyous sounds of music. We are happy to have Ms. Kelsey as our new music teacher. She has been getting to know the children, exploring movement and rhythm, and working with the children to prepare them for the Christmas concert. The boys and girls are excited and can't wait to perform for all of you in a few weeks!



*"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything" - Plato—Greek philosopher*





# Christmas Toy Drive



**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](mailto:Melissamcoppola@gmail.com)  
[Robertstephen13@gmail.com](mailto:Robertstephen13@gmail.com)  
[Donnagee66@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:stmelfaithformation@gmail.com) and [mariamarotta@stmels-queens.org](mailto:mariamarotta@stmels-queens.org)



## SAVE THE DATE – Sunday, Dec. 10th, 2023 at 10:30 am Mass

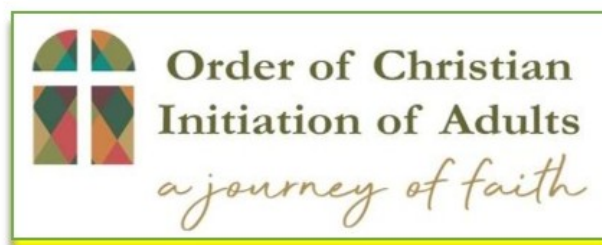
Family Grade Mass for Children from St. Mel's Academy and School of Religion – Grade 7

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](mailto:stmelfaithformation@gmail.com) or at 718-461-9840**



# ADVENT



Our 1st and 2nd graders in Religious Education made Advents Wreaths in Class. They are preparing for Jesus' birth and all the joys of Christmas!





## Stay Connected to St. Mel's Church

Go to: <http://stmelsrchurch.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.






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.

**PLEASE**  
**TURN OFF**  
**CELL**  
**PHONES**



*Thank you!*



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




**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



**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](http://www.thebridgetolife.org)

**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.



# SCAM ALERT

## Gift Card Awareness



**NYPD**  
New York City Police Department

### Scammers will ask you for **GIFT CARDS** in order to:



- Pay an IRS debt
- Keep your Social Security benefits
- Keep your utilities on (electricity, water or heat)
- Pay for tech support
- Pay for a family member in trouble
- Pay a member of the military needing money
- Pay bail or ransom
- Avoid arrest or deportation



### They will tell you:

- It's urgent - don't tell anyone
- Which gift card to buy
- To provide the gift card number and PIN



### Safety tips:

- Gift cards are for gifts, not for payment
- Stick to stores you know and trust – avoid buying from online auction sites
- Check the card before you buy it – make sure the PIN on the back isn't showing
- Keep your receipt – this will help you file a report if you lose the gift card

**For more information, call the NYPD at (646) 610-SCAM**





## Stations of the Cross

### (Via Crucis)

“The Stations of the Cross originated early in the history of the Church. It was the custom of the faithful to follow the way walked by Christ from Pilate's house in Jerusalem to Calvary. As time went on, pilgrims to the holy city desired to continue this devotion when they returned home. In the fourteenth century when the Franciscans were entrusted with the care of the holy places in Jerusalem they promoted the use of images depicting the Lord's Way of the Cross.

Whether celebrated by a community or by individuals, the Stations of the Cross offer a way for the faithful to enter more fully into the passion and death of the Lord and to serve as another manifestation of the pilgrim Church on its homeward journey. Traditionally the stations have been arranged around the walls of the nave of the church, or, in some instances, around the gathering space or even the exterior of the church, marking the devotion as a true journey.

The Stations enjoy a long tradition. In recent times some parishes have clustered the stations in one place. While such an arrangement may be expedient, it is not desirable because it eliminates space for movement, which characterizes this devotion as a "way" of the cross.” (Living Stones 132-134)

*Egeria Inserts are an endeavor of egeriathepilgrim.com*



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72 year old male looking for a companion to assist with daily household activities and chores (i.e cooking, cleaning, shopping).  
Schedule 3-4 days a week for 4-5 hours per day.  
Must be able to speak Italian or Sicilian.

Please contact Benny at  
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