

Church of Saint Mel

2615 154th St., Flushing, NY 11354

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

www.stmels-queens.org



Sunday, December 24, 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
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.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR Mass Schedule



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

4:00PM (Christmas Pageant), & Midnight Mass

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

7:30AM, 9:00AM (Italian), 10:30AM, & 12:00PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31st

5:00PM

MONDAY, JANUARY 1ST

9:00AM & 11:30AM



This is one of those unique calendar years when we say goodbye to Advent and hello to Christmas both on the same day.

It is also a year that the Church asks us to attend Mass twice in one week: today to celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent and tomorrow, Monday, to celebrate Christmas.

While I know that back-to-back attendance at Mass will be a sacrifice, I think we will appreciate coming to the Eucharist if we see it as an opportunity and not as an obligation; an opportunity to deepen our appreciation for the true message/meaning of Christmas: “God is with us!”

Mary and Joseph were the first to see “God with us” in Bethlehem.

You and I are afforded that same privilege here at St. Mel each time we come to partake of the Holy Eucharist.

And so...Let Us Adore Him!

Merry Christmas!

Love, Father Fonti

ST. THERESE *of* LISIEUX

*“Receive Communion
often, very often...
there you have the
sole remedy, if you
want to be cured.
Jesus has not
put this
attraction
in your
heart for
nothing.”*



Mass Intentions – December 24, 2023

SAT	12/23
5:00	Domenico Fazzi
SUN	12/24
7:30	The People of The Parish
9:00	Giovanni Pancheri
	Francesco Baldo, & The Calabro Family
	Guccione, Graci, & Valenza Families
	Americo Chima, Anna & Angelo Graci, & Carmelo Giardina
	Steven Gramolini
	Donato & Maria Pinto
	Joseph & Charles Piccolo, Ciro Ingui, & Danilo Laloe
	Frank Canale, Domenico LoBasso, Elizabeth DiCampli, & Pasquale Tamburro
10:30	Kazimir & Ivanica Boncic
12:00	Martelli Family
SUN	12/24—Christmas
4:00	Christmas Novena
MON	12/25—Christmas
Midnight	Christmas Novena
7:30	Louis Fonti
9:00	Pietro Gagliano
	Salvatore Faraci, Salvatore Vitale, Gaspere & Vincenza Faraci
10:30	Francesco DiMaria, Giuseppina & Anna Sferrazza, & Giovanni & Angela Messina
12:00	Kristopher Ennis (3rd Anniversary in Heaven)
TUES	12/26
9:00	Christmas Novena
WED.	12/27
7:00	Christmas Novena
9:00	Charles Minch
THURS.	12/28
7:00	Nora Holmes
9:00	Christmas Novena
FRI.	12/29
7:00	Christmas Novena
9:00	Joe Hopkins & Irene Smith
SAT	12/30
9:00	Louis Fonti
	Frank Tiseo
	Deceased Members of the St. Mel's Choir
5:00	Marino Foschi
SUN	12/31
7:30	Tony Mirkov
9:00	Peter Evangelista
	Pasquale Tamburro
	Jim Kelly
	The People of The Parish
10:30	Teddy, Carmela, & Christopher Kwiath
12:00	Kristopher Ennis
5:00	Norma & Ugo Ciacco, & Teresa Ribarich



Bread & Wine

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

**Matteo, Cecilia, & Peter
Pinto**

**Gift Given by: Julia &
Richard Chitos**



Altar Candles

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

Plinio Lucciola
*Merry Christmas in Heaven
Forever in our hearts.*

**Gift Given by: His Wife,
Children, and Grandchildren**



Sanctuary Candles

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

Thomas Muratore Sr.

**Gift Given by: Donna,
Chris, Christopher, &
Lauren Bernhard**



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

We pray for those recently deceased from our parish:



“United in Communion / United in Charity”

ST. MEL’S 2023 GOAL: \$ 84,065

Already Pledged: \$120,989.64

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 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 17, 2023

Mass Attendance Total = 721

5:00 PM—161

7:30 AM—92

9:00 AM—105

10:30 AM—208

12:00 PM—155

Hope Peace Joy Love



**There will be only one Mass
at 9:00AM on
Tuesday, December 26th.**

**The Rectory office will be closed on
Monday, December 25th in
observance of Christmas.**





This Christmas...

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,

The obedience of Joseph,

The joy of the angels,

The eagerness of the shepherds,

The determination of the magi

And the peace of the Christ child.

*May Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy
Spirit bless you now and forever (written by
Ray Pritchard)*

*Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!*

With love from the Faculty, Staff and Students of

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 January 28, 2024 at 10:30 am Mass

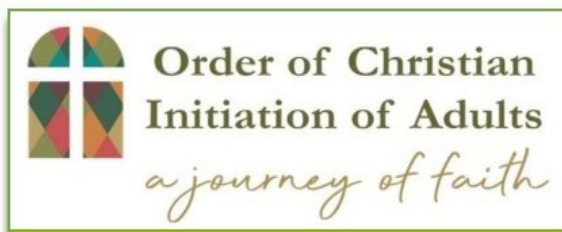
Family Grade Mass for Children from St. Mel's Academy and School of Religion – Grade 5

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

As we Prepare...



Blessings to you this
holiday season. Sending
Peace, Love and Prayers
to your family this

Christmas!

Paula Migliore

Alicia Duran

Maria Marotta

The Faith Formation Office



Thank you to all who supported our Christmas bulb campaign!

*Matthew Fajardo
For my family
For my health*

*Chang Family
Dylan Chang
Aaron Chang*

*Vickie Hung
Keo Ma
Koey Ma
Leo Ma
Vickie Hung*

*Sienna Salvio
Richard Lund
Kerry Dinkleman*

*Rose Bedowsky
In honor of the Bedowsky
For our 12 grandchildren...Michael,
Celena Rose, Matthew, Natasha,
Jonathan, Rebecca, Samantha,
Stephen, Andrew, Brianna, Frank,
Michael, and Isabella Rose*

*Victor Mercieca
Special Intention*

*Siena & Oliver Lascano
Andy Papi*

*Luca Perez
My brother Liam in Heaven*

*Abigail & Nicholas Cirri
The Cirri Family*

*Filisa Betgilan
Angela Buzzerio
Dennis Nolan
Niki Sesaridou*

*Nicholas Velez
For all those who are suffering*

*Rita Cammarata
Frank Martino
Tracy McGrath
Vanessa Testani*

*Marisa Bordone
Antonietta Demarinis*

*Roseanne Maselli
Rita Maselli
Roseanna Della Penna
Charles Maselli
Paola Masello
Michelina Maselli
Lorzano Gambino*

*Sara Milano
Baby Luigi Milano
Serafina Curatolo
Angelo Curatolo
Armando Ferrante
Teresa Ferrante
Luigi Milano*

*Olivia Deninno & Jennifer Brady
William Brady
Susan Brady
Raymond Martin
Christine Albanese
Breda Witt
Eugene Witt*

*Anita Garcia
In loving memory of Anna Maria &
Vinicio DiNardo
In loving memory of Karen Garcia
In loving memory of Kristen Kessler
& Allison Ruddick*

*Niko Begonja
Miro Begonja*

*Asllani Family
Isabella Asllani
Peter Asllani*

Thank you to all who supported our Christmas bulb campaign!

*Lukis Family
Coral Lukis
Sashenka Lukis*

*Emiliano Torres
Special Intention*

*Richard & Ann DeSimone
Anna & Raymond Schellati*

*Carmelo Giardino
Special Intention*

*Christina Mancuso
Jerry Mancuso
Esther Mancuso
Joe McConville
Mary McConville*

*Paul Pellarin
Antonio Pellarin
Lina Pellarin
Felice DeMarinis
Antonietta DeMarinis
Serge Fabris
Ray Fabris
Anthony Todero*

*Luca Cota
Francesco Santillo
Giovanni Santillo*

*Joan Kaefer
My Children
My Husband
My Friends
My Family
My Grandchildren*

*Mr & Mrs Joseph DiNubila
Bryan Hamill*

*Tommy Benigno
Ann T. Derosmo
David Benigno
Anthony Pullini
Crio Gentile*

*Mr & Mrs Terence Tarpey
In Memory of Joseph and Germaine
Tariol
In Memory of Sally and Jack Tarpey
In Memory for Lori Lavelle-Jardin
In Honor of NYPD & FDNY Members
For Success of St. Mel's Catholic
Academy*

*Maria & Suverio Ferrante
In Loving Memory of Filippo Fabrizio
In Loving Memory of Adele Fabrizio
In Loving Memory of Antonio
Ferrante
In Loving Memory of Giacinta
Ferrante*

*Madeline Bauer
George J. Bauer
Helen and John Jacobs
Thomas "Tip" DeLora
Mary & George Polochick
Deceased Members of The Bauer
Family
Deceased Members of The Jacobs
Family*

*Anthony Malave
Merry Christmas to my beautiful
grandmother, Joyce Marmo!*

*Frank & Karen Sullivan
In Memory of Papa Tommy Piazza
In Memory of Nanny Helen Piazza
In Memory of Francis Sullivan
In Memory of Gloria Sullivan*

*Esteban Martinez
Martinez Family
Miranda Family*

*Adrian Kuhnle
For My Family, Good Health
For our Friends who have lost someone*

*Elizabeth Sperrazza
In Memory of Louis Aresu*

Thank you to all who supported our Christmas bulb campaign!

Vincent C Papa Jr. & Eugenia
Vincent & Mildred Papa
Frank & Rose Perretti
Victor Papa & Velerie Maccone
Ann Marie Tedaldi & Tony Calvano
Pappa, Perretti, Mirro, Giordano
Family & Friends John Bellini, & Rose
Paroula

Carolyn & Bob Sitler
In Loving Memory of Bobby Sitler
In Loving Memory of Scott Brower

Christopher Gabris
Monique Saoud

Saveria Wink
In Memory of Douglas Gerard Wink Sr
In Memory of Mary & Jerry Wink

JJ Paladino
JJ Paladino
Vincent Paladino
Christopher Paladino
Michael Paladino
The Late Vincent Paladino Sr.

Sarah Sirju
Olivia Sirju

Keira Farrell
The Farrell Family
The Vitaliano Family

Lorenzo Urena
Our Second baby in Heaven
Aunt Laura
Mama and Papa
Grandma and Grandpa

Michelle Urena
Marlene Johnston
Robert Johnston

Anna Gagliano
Pietro Gagliano

Geraldine Meyers
Raymond Meyers
Raymond Meyers
Mary Meyers
Vincent Meyers
Dorothy Burke
Gerald Burke

Mr. & Mrs. Paolo Magana
Dear Friends & Neighbors
Emma & Rudy Hrvatin

Denise DeRosa
In Memory of Julie Pascuzzo
In Memory of Jay Hays
In Memory of Bill King
For healing of Nancy R

R. Antonino Prainito
Giuseppe Anna Rosetta Prainito
Martina—Angela—Bacarella
Francesco-Angelo Bacarella
Giuseppa Valenra

Rosa Del Greco
Camillo & Clorinda Carullo
Maria Carullo & Rosaria Del Greco
Filippo & Minuccia Del Greco
Antonia & Maria Carullo
Albert DiBenedetto

Pat Feeley
Alex O'Brien by mom Maureen
Alex O'Brien by Aunt Pat

Joyce Marmo
In Loving Memory of the Palladino
Family
Merry Christmas Joey, Anthony,
Nick, Matt, & Christian!

Margherita Papi
Adriano Papi
Mr. & Mrs. A. Papi
Mr. & Mrs. J Bonoz

Joanna Saladino
Special Intention

Thank you to all who supported our Christmas bulb campaign!

Julia Mariotti

Dino Mariotti

Mr. & Mrs. Domenico Mariotti

Mr. & Mrs. Giuseppe Bona

Patrick & Marie Crowley

Michael—Gelsomena-Matthew

Mangini

Patrick & Mary Crowley

Thomas Crowley Mary Kreuger

Frank & Theresa Elio

Frank Elio Jr.—Marie Leo

Anna Westergard—Walter & Stella

Michael Perricelli

The Perricelli Family

Pecchinenda Family

Nicola Pecchinenda

Antonio & Giuseppina Vricella

Meri Bozicevich

Vincent Campagnola

Beverly Ilchert

Blessings to the Flynn Family at

Christmas Maryirene, Tony, Katie,

Kelly, & Sean

Merry Christmas to my husband

Walter in Heaven

Merry Christmas to my parents in

Heaven Irene & Emory Smith &

Brother Walter

Theresa Zazzi

Zazzi Family

Maligno Family

Ilde Vergiati & Fernanda Zoni

Ben Tockarshewsky

The Tockarshewsky Family

Tockarshewsky & Gualtieri Families

Karen Reinah

Nanny

Papa Tony

Mitch Kadota

Falsone & Reinah Families

Mary Jeanne Hopkins

*Merry Christmas in Heaven to Joan &
Joe Hopkins*

*Merry Christmas in Heaven to Kevin
& Dennis Hopkins*

*Merry Christmas in Heaven in
Memory of the deceased members of
Hopkins & Hill families*

*Merry Christmas in Heaven Walter
Ilchert*

*Merry Christmas in Heaven Marylyn
& John Tie*

*Merry Christmas in Heaven to
Roseann & Lou Angelico*

*Merry Christmas in Heaven to Bobby
& Teresa Hill*

Vito Cetta

Joyce Cetta

Josephine Cetta

William Cetta

Paul Massaro

Ben Trocca

Aldina Trocca

Margaret Chatterton

Louis D. Marzo

Kate Scarmato

Giovanniello Family

In Memory of Charles Giovanniello

In Memory of Eileen Joyce

In Memory of Michael Metelitz

In Memory of Donald Bagur

In Memory of Lieselotte Freels

In Memory of Isabel Correa

Kenny Family

*Merry Christmas in Heaven Grandpa,
we miss you! Love Carilann,*

Marygrace, Robby

*Merry Christmas Grandma, we love
you! Love, Carolann, Martgrace, and
Robby*

Elena Tatta

The Tatta Family

The Massaro Family

Thank you to all who supported our Christmas bulb campaign!

Maria Medaglia

Tullio

Vincenzo & Marianna

Rose & Jim

Rest in Peace

God Bless You

Love you always

Ines Davila

Take care Mathias

Grandpa Alfredo health

Bless all our Family

Elianna Campbell

*Wishing Yaya Julie a quick recovery
from breaking her pelvis*

*Sending love to our angels in heaven
(Yaya Vickie, Pappou Teddy, Nanny
Jean, & Pappop)*

Annette Freda

Josephine Proietto

Francesco Proietto

Nicholas Occhiogrosso

Vincent Cucinella

Antoniette Cucinello

The Freda Family

Judith Freda

Mr. & Mrs. Martin Freda

Debbie Freda

Mr. & Mrs. William Quinn

Mr. & Mrs. James Walsh

Francesco Proietto

Harley Leo

Robert Muller

Margaret Sansone

Adrienne Leo

Shaun Martin

Theresa Storms

Jackson Rowland

Jefferson Rowland

Denis Schug

The Krauland Family

Konrad & Helebe Krauland

Franz & Luci Wolf

Otto & Gertrud Wolf

Wilhelm & Hilde Wolf

Erwin & Berta Martinek

Otto & Hilde Gaspar

Gohfried & Marie Koenig

Karlheinz & Inge Schneider

Richard Seifried

Robert M. Donovan

Marianne D'Onofrio

Frank D'Onofrio

Frances Logins

Theodore Chesnick

Debbie DiGennaro

Filomenia D'Onofrio

Mary DiGennaro

Joseph D'Onofrio

Ingrid Donovan

Maria Montag

Henry Montag

Luci

Robert Matthew Donovan

Tina Marino

Joan Connors

Patricia Finn & Family

In Loving Memory of Brian Finn

Julianna DeClara

The DeClara Family

Ninette Parisi

Sebastian Parisi

Ronald J. Siracusa

Sebastian Gallagher

Christopher Gallagher

Nicoletta Guadagno

Umberto Guadagno

Raffaele Parisi

Antoinette Parisi

The Military & Our Veterans

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.

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 prepararono 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 la santità 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.



Because no marriage is beyond hope...

- Is your marriage tearing you apart?
- Do you feel hurt and angry?
- Does talking make it worse?
- Thought of leaving or divorce?
- Is your marriage heading in the wrong direction?

Retrouvaille can help.

**Our Next Weekend is
January 19-21, 2024
at The Immaculate Conception
Seminary, Huntington**

**To register or for more information:
1-800-470-2230
HelpOurMarriage.org**

Retrouvaille is a practical program for married couples facing difficult challenges. It is not a marriage retreat, or counseling. You will not be asked to share the personal details of your story.

Retrouvaille is different; it's a way to improve your communication, help you reconnect, and build a healthy, happier, stronger marriage.

Catholic in origin, couples of all faiths, or no faith background, are welcome to attend. We are a Christian Peer Ministry offering tens of thousands of marriages hope in over 160 communities world-wide.

Connect with St Mel using the Free Social App Tabella

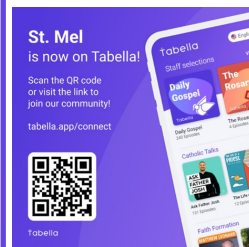


Tabella is a fully Catholic app where you can enjoy Catholic content to grow in the faith. The Tabella app is available in English/ Spanish and has the biggest library of Catholic audio devotional content.

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.



Stay Connected to St. Mel's Church

Go to: <http://stmelsrccchurch.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.

The Nativity of the Lord

The Gospels do not record Jesus' birth with the same attention that they do his Passion, death, and Resurrection. No one knows the exact date of his birth. We do, however, know that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14).

By around 325 AD, Christmas was observed on December 25 by the Church of Rome. While the reason is not certain, there are three possibilities for the choice of this date:

The Feast of the Annunciation (celebrating the conception of Jesus) was already being celebrated on March 25, so celebrating his birth nine months later was appropriate.

The winter solstice at that time in Rome was December 23/24, so celebrating Christ's birth on December 25 acknowledged him as the Light of the World.

The Romans were already celebrating the pagan festival of the Sun God on December 25, so Christians, whose liturgies were illegal, could easily celebrate their God without drawing attention to their celebration.

The importance of Christmas is not the date, but the mystery of God's love made human in the Incarnation: the Word of God taking of flesh through Mary's cooperation with God. We need just remember it's Christ's Mass we celebrate at the altar.

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Flushing, N.Y. 11354
718-359-6300

*The last family owned
funeral firm in this bulletin*

Also located in Bayside & Whitestone
Visit our website:
www.gleasonsfuneral.com

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