



This past Wednesday we celebrated the feast of St. Francis de Sales.

Renowned for his practical spiritual advice, he encouraged people to grow in holiness according to their own state in life. To each he advised: *“Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit. Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset.”*

While I am an admirer of his priestly life and teaching, it's obvious St. Francis de Sales was not from the Big Apple: *“Never be in a hurry? Do everything quietly and calmly? Maintain your inner peace even amidst the chaos?”* Fuhgeddaboudit!

At a recent deanery meeting Tom Leavens, the Director of Thomas Berry Place, shared with us priests and our pastoral staffs the spiritual opportunities available at Thomas Berry Place.

Located at the Passionist Monastery in Jamaica Estates (86-45 Edgerton Blvd.), this newly refurbished retreat house offers all those who hunger for peace a place for mediation and reflection.

Now offering Monthly Days of Prayer, Evening Prayer Services, and Retreats for Men and Women, Thomas Berry Place is a spiritual oasis in our own backyard.

For more information: (929) 357-6700 / www.thomasberryplace.org

Another oasis, not especially known for quiet but for excellence, is even closer...St. Mel's Catholic Academy!

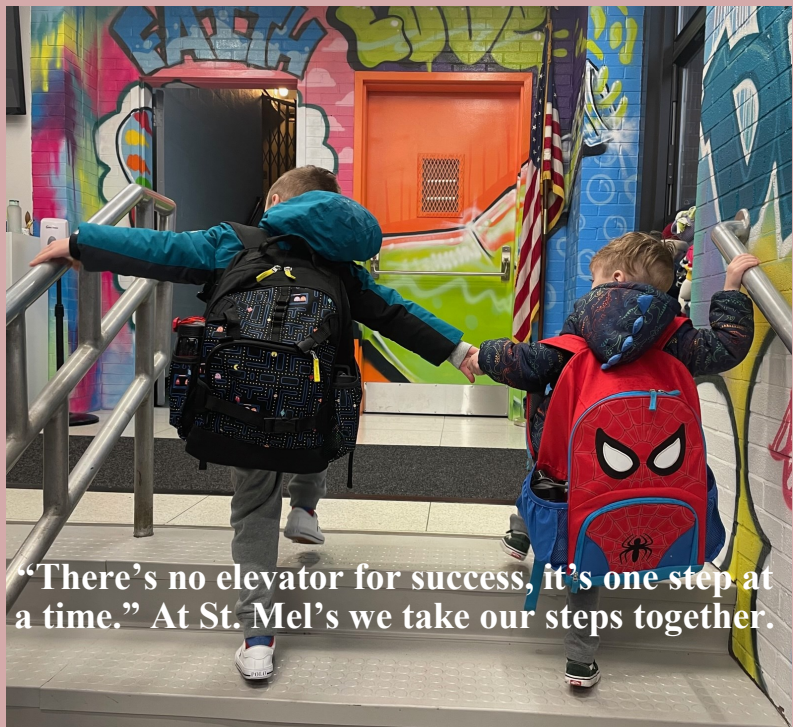
Today begins Catholic Schools Week: January 28th – February 3rd.

Blessed to be one of 70 parishes in the diocese to host a Catholic Academy, I am very happy and grateful to announce that next year we will be opening a 7th Grade!

Come and see all the great things that we are doing with and for our children.

Open House Today....Sunday, January 28th @ 11:30 AM.

Father Fonti



“There's no elevator for success, it's one step at a time.” At St. Mel's we take our steps together.

Mass Intentions - January 28, 2024

SAT 1/27

5:00 Gloria Ubertini

SUN 1/28

7:30 Mary Donovan Thomas

9:00 Anna & Angelo Graci

Antonio Mirabile

Maria Cutaia

People of The Parish

10:30 Ronald Siracusa

12:00 John DiVanna

MON 1/29

7:00 The Prosnak, Mokos, Berardelli, Campas, Wisnewski, &

McIntosh Families

9:00 Benedetto DiPietro

TUES 1/30

7:00 The Orchard, Bauer, Johnson, & O'Brien Families

9:00 Andrea Altagracia DeLeon

WED. 1/31

7:00 Ante Grando

9:00 Edward Sitler

THURS. 2/1

7:00 Ante Grando

9:00 Deceased Members of The Murphy, Boyle, & Tully Families

FRI. 2/2

7:00 Purgatorial Society

9:00 Giuseppina Sferrazza

SAT 2/3

9:00 Li Jian Tao

Lena Bae (Living)

5:00 Renato Ijubicic

SUN 2/4

7:30 Michael Frances Hirn

9:00 Aquilina DeVincentis

Rita Iurillo

Anna & Fortunato DeVardo

People of The Parish

10:30 Josip Boneta (7 Year Anniversary)

12:00 Biagio Battaglia, & Anna & Elia Cinquemani



Bread & Wine

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

Ante Grando

Gift Given by: His Wife



Altar Candles

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

Josephine Magliano

***Gift Given by: Lucy & Phil
Tornatore***



Sanctuary Candles

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

John Joseph Foley



***Newly Enrolled in the
Purgatorial Society***

December, 2024

Anthony Rubinich

Marie Nicholson

Gail Florio

Julie Grgurevic

Mario Grgurevic

Josephine Proietto

Calogero Tribastone

James Martino

Franklin Parodi

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



First Friday Adoration February 2nd following the 9:00 AM Mass. Benediction 12:00 PM. In the event of a funeral adoration will be held in the chapel.

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.

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.

January 21, 2024

Mass Attendance Total = 608

5:00 PM—108

7:30 AM—76

9:00 AM—95

10:30 AM—179

12:00 PM—150



At St. Mel's Catholic Academy...

We Celebrate our Cultures!



This week our 2nd and 3rd graders celebrated culture days in their classrooms. The children brought in food, dressed up and shared some of their cultural and family traditions with their classmates. While fun and filling (yum...) it was also an important learning experience for the children. Sharing about one's culture can boost a child's self-esteem as well as develop a deeper appreciation and understanding of others, which fosters inclusivity, tolerance and stronger relationships among students. Here at St. Mel's we are blessed to have students from European, Asian, South American and African cultures and it enriches our own school culture, because "It's a small world after all."





Saturday, February 3, 2023

7:00pm - 11:00pm

St. Mel's O'Malley Hall

154-24 26th Avenue

Flushing, NY 11354

**IT'S NAME THAT TUNE
MEETS BINGO!**

**We play the songs, you mark the
songs on your game board when
you hear them.**

**When you win you call out
BINGO!**

\$60pp (21 & over only)

**Includes bingo card, soda/water,
dessert, coffee/tea, and a
door prize ticket
BYOB & Snacks**



**TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE
FROM THE MAIN OFFICE
ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT
ST. MEL'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY**

**Consider Becoming an Altar
Server
at St. Mel's.
We're on the Lookout for
New Recruits!**

**Open to Boys & Girls in
Grades 4-8.**

**Requires Several Training
Sessions.**

Contact: Father Fonti
jfonti@stmels-queens.org



**A PRAYER FOR HEALING
VICTIMS OF ABUSE**

God of endless love,
ever caring, ever strong,
always present, always just:
You gave your only Son
to save us by his blood on the cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,
join to your own suffering
the pain of all who have been hurt
in body, mind, and spirit
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear the cries of our brothers and sisters
who have been gravely harmed,
and the cries of those who love them.
Soothe their restless hearts with hope,
steady their shaken spirits with faith.
Grant them justice for their cause,
enlightened by your truth.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,
heal your people's wounds
and transform brokenness into wholeness.
Grant us the courage and wisdom,
humility and grace, to act with justice.
Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors.
Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



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 First Step is always the
hardest. It's made easier when
it is not taken alone.**



AA Meetings

**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**

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.



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.

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

Connect with St Mel using the Free Social App Tabella

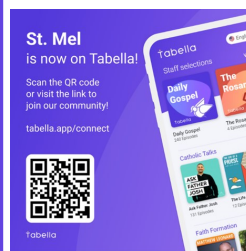


Tabella is a fully Catholic app where you can enjoy Catholic content to grow in the faith. The Tabella app is available in English/Spanish and has the biggest library of Catholic audio devotional content.

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.

Bundle Saturday—St. Vincent de Paul



The next bundle Saturday will be April 13th. St. Vincent de Paul will have a truck in the St. Mel's parking lot from 9am—12:00pm.

Lightly used clothing is needed. Thank you for your generosity.

Religious Education Program

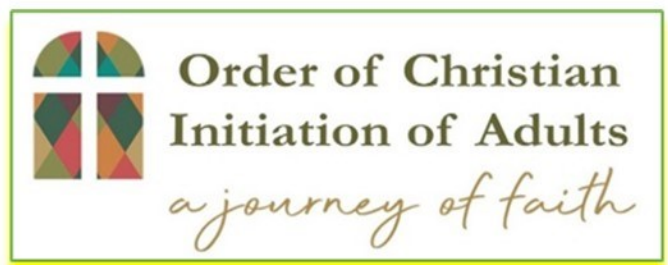
St. Mel's Office of Faith Formation provides Religious Instruction to children in grades 1 through 8 who attend public schools. Classes are held on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:00 for Grades 1-5 and from 6:30 to 8:00 for Grades 6-8. If you have any questions, please email us at stmelfaithformation@gmail.com 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

Catholic Schools Week

A	U	L	Y	J	R	J	F	W	A	J	U	W	S	Y	C	H
X	O	X	K	E	Y	G	A	G	J	K	L	E	U	H	S	O
X	L	F	N	W	W	E	I	Y	V	T	T	T	A	D	P	C
N	O	D	L	E	J	D	T	D	B	O	I	R	X	B	Y	A
Z	E	O	P	R	V	U	H	H	B	X	I	J	T	X	S	T
Y	V	J	J	V	X	T	D	Y	R	T	J	A	C	F	S	H
E	I	K	L	X	G	I	V	P	Y	W	Y	H	M	X	B	O
C	V	Z	K	W	N	T	J	K	B	S	S	S	Q	J	J	L
N	E	E	S	T	Y	R	L	C	R	H	X	L	L	T	I	I
V	L	J	M	Z	O	O	V	Z	P	N	Z	N	X	B	Z	C
H	U	I	X	A	G	F	F	C	R	L	R	E	L	R	D	E
D	C	B	R	W	Q	R	J	U	S	T	I	C	E	F	O	I
U	K	X	Y	S	V	W	E	S	H	B	O	O	E	Q	B	T
R	P	X	T	E	M	P	A	R	N	C	E	G	W	E	T	L
D	N	L	B	I	L	T	D	P	I	J	S	C	O	A	F	G
H	E	P	O	H	S	C	X	D	J	Z	N	D	H	D	I	V
E	F	F	R	C	G	E	C	N	E	D	U	R	P	X	Z	Y

Faith

Charity

Temparnce

Justice

God

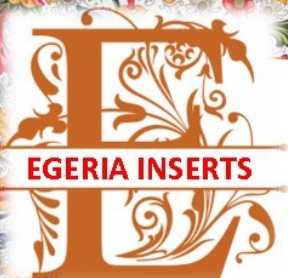
Hope

Fortitude

Catholic

Love

Prudence



Liturgical Colors - Violet

(Purple), Rose and Black

“The color violet or purple is used in Advent and Lent. It may also be worn in Offices and Masses for the Dead.” (GIRM 346,d)

Violet symbolizes penance, preparation and mourning.

The color violet is used during the liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent as a sign of penance, sacrifice and preparation.

“The color rose [a blending of violet and white] may be used, where it is the practice, on Gaudete Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent) and on Laetare Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent) (GIRM 346f) as a sign of the joy marking the midpoint in our preparation for, and anticipation of, the coming Christmas or Easter festivities.

In the United States violet vestments may worn on January 22, the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children, when the Mass for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children is celebrated.

“Besides the color violet, the colors white or black may be used at funeral services and at other Offices and Masses for the Dead [most notably the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed on All Souls’ Day, November 2] in the Dioceses of the United States of America.” (GIRM 346e)

Outside of Mass, violet is also used during the hearing of confessions at the Sacrament of Penance.

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