

# 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, February 4, 2024

## 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.



Experts frequently change their opinions.

I recently saw the headline: “You Are Probably Drinking Too Much Water, Says Experts.”

So much for that recommended daily intake of acqua they insisted we consume.

People will start to question one’s credibility when there is a flux of opinion: Do the experts really possess the knowledge to decide?

Jesus is the expert par excellence. Possessing all knowledge and understanding, He did not come from the Father to share an opinion. Rather, to teach us a Way, Truth, and Life. His teaching is the same “yesterday, today, and forever.”

Consider His encounter with the Woman at the Well.

Aware of her spiritual drought, Jesus offers to quench her thirst by inviting her to faith: *“anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again”* (John :14).

In my opinion, the issue is not that people are drinking too much water; it’s that they are going to the wrong well to find satisfaction.

Christ is the Spring of Salvation.

Happiness in life is found only in Him.

Father Fonti

FOR HE SATISFIES THE  
THIRSTY AND FILLS THE  
HUNGRY WITH GOOD  
THINGS.

– PSALM 107:9



## Mass Intentions - February 4, 2024

<b>SAT</b>	<b>2/3</b>
5:00	Renato Ijubicic
<b>SUN</b>	<b>2/4</b>
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
<b>MON</b>	<b>2/5</b>
7:00	Robert & Lelio Mazzoni
9:00	Giuseppe Fable
<b>TUES</b>	<b>2/6</b>
7:00	Giovanni Flaim (Anniversary)
9:00	Dominick Pugliese
<b>WED.</b>	<b>2/7</b>
7:00	Ida Riglione
9:00	Jean Alberti
<b>THURS.</b>	<b>2/8</b>
7:00	Victor Riglione
9:00	Susanna Socci (Happy 20th Anniversary in Heaven)
<b>FRI.</b>	<b>2/9</b>
7:00	Thomas J. Snee
9:00	Linda Buback
<b>SAT</b>	<b>2/10</b>
9:00	Rose Jean Chitos & George Chitos
	Joseph Lizotte
	Thomas Patrick Walsh
	Daniel Ilijasic
5:00	Severino Napolitano
<b>SUN</b>	<b>2/11</b>
7:30	James Zaput
9:00	Girolamo DiPiazza
	Giuseppina & Angelo LoBrutto
	Luigi & Gina Pedalino
	People of The Parish
10:30	Nicoletta & Umberto Guadagno
12:00	Jean Dodici



## Bread & Wine

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

***Josip Boneta***

***Gift Given by: The Boneta  
Family***



## Altar Candles

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

***The Recently Deceased  
Parishioners of St. Mel's***



## Sanctuary Candles

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

***Tessie & William Somers***

***Gift Given by: The  
Cholowa & Robin  
Families***



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

**January, 2024**

***Marina Yolanda Velasquez  
Frank Guarriello Jr.  
Francene Scarano  
Anthony Liberta***

*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.*





## OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL EPISCOPAL VICARS

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

310 Prospect Park West  
Brooklyn, New York 11215  
Phone: 718.399.5959

December 5, 2023

To the Clergy, Staffs, and Faithful of Deanery Queens 4,

On Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Brennan met with the priests of your deanery to discuss the current pastoral situation in the parishes so we can begin to plan for the best way to continue to evangelize and proclaim the Gospel in your deanery while facing the reality of limited personnel and resources.

Some information that we shared includes:

- The deanery is comprised of 9 parishes in all of College Point and Whitestone, and most of Flushing.
- Mass is celebrated in 6 languages in addition to English: the Spanish and Chinese communities are growing; the Italian communities are declining in numbers. A small community gathers for Mass in Urdu twice a month; Mass in Tagalog is celebrated monthly in two parishes. The Korean community is served at St. Paul Chong HaSang.
- The Chinese community is moving further east from downtown Flushing.
- Many Korean families have moved away from Flushing but return to St. Paul Chong HaSang for Mass.
- Most of the priests serving in the deanery are foreign-born; several senior priests live in the rectories and assist as needed.
- The average weekly Mass attendance reported by parishes during 2022/2023:

Holy Trinity	493	St. Luke	803
Mary's Nativity-St. Ann	526	St. Mel	701
St. Andrew Avellino	692	St. Michael	1618
St. Fidelis	853	St. Paul Chong HaSang	1174
St. John Vianney	649	Average Deanery Mass Attendance	834

In addition to the information that was shared, some concerns raised by the priests include:

- There is not a sufficient pool of trained lay leaders to fill the roles of Religious Education Directors and other pastoral ministries in our parishes.
- As older parishioners die off or move away, non-Catholics are buying their homes.
- The cost of running a parish continues to increase, making it more of a challenge to balance budgets and provide for the spiritual needs of the community.

I share the notes of the meeting with you so that you are aware of some of the more immediate concerns that your pastors are facing. In the months ahead, they will continue to work together and provide opportunities for parishioners to be a part of the discussion so that Bishop Brennan can make decisions that will first and foremost help us to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ most effectively, while at the same time minimize the administrative burdens that can detract from the important work of the Church in your part of northern Queens.

During this holy season of Advent, we focus on Mary's loving availability to the Father's will. I am confident that with Mary's intercession and a spirit of collaboration and charity among all of us, we will make decisions that will help us plan for a vibrant future for the Church in Brooklyn and Queens. I thank you for your generous support of the diocese and your local parishes. Let us pray for one another, relying on God's grace to remain faithful disciples of the Lord.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Very Rev. John J. Costello". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Very Rev. John J. Costello, VE  
Regional Episcopal Vicar of Queens East

cc: Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan, Bishop of Brooklyn  
Reverend Monsignor Joseph Grimaldi, Vicar General

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

## **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?

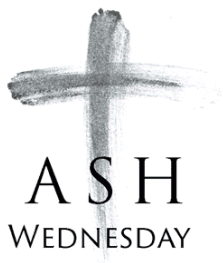
Listen to our prayers as we ask you, Lord, to remove whatever hinders parents from choosing a Catholic school for their children. Guide their thinking and their decisions. May our desire to form a partnership with them be a source of hope and encouragement. Bless our efforts to meet funding challenges 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.

## **Ash Wednesday - February 14th**

### **Ashes will be distributed at:**



7:00AM, 9:00AM, and  
12:00PM & 7:00PM  
Masses and during the  
at 3:30 PM Service

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 28, 2024**

**Mass Attendance Total = 742**

**5:00 PM—149**

**7:30 AM—89**

**9:00 AM—82**

**10:30 AM—282**

**12:00 PM—140**



# Lenten Reflection Nights



**March 6th & 7th 7:00PM**  
**St. Mel's Church**

**“Come Follow Me”**

Maintaining our daily walk with Christ through faithful scripture reading, prayer, and works of charity.

Guest Preachers:

Father Sean Magaldi  
&  
Deacon Jerry Magaldi



All are Invited

# SUPER BOWL LVIII

Hosted by the Men's Club

**\$25 per person**



VS



**SUN FEB 11TH | 5:00 PM to game end**

Join us for the ultimate Super Bowl party experience

Included: \$3 box in the pool, Hot Buffet Meal, Home Made Chili, Beer, Wine, Soda, and Coffee

Tickets may be purchased at the door

Entrance on 27th Avenue





# At St. Mel's Catholic Academy...

## The school day doesn't end at 3



### *Afterschool Enrichment*

Who says that the school day ends at 3pm? Here at St. Mel's we still have lots going on even after the end of the official school day. Whether our kids are hanging out in the schoolyard (weather permitting), participating in our enrichment or academic programs, playing CYO sports or members of Girl Scouts, there always seems to be something going on. We are glad to see so many of our students taking advantage of these programs. Check out some of our students who are learning to be future chess master's through Make Your Move Chess Academy, future Grand Slam champions through Tiger Tennis and future Iron Chefs in the Cooking Club with our very own Ms. Krista and Ms. Frey.





# 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 February 11, 2024, at 10:30 am Mass

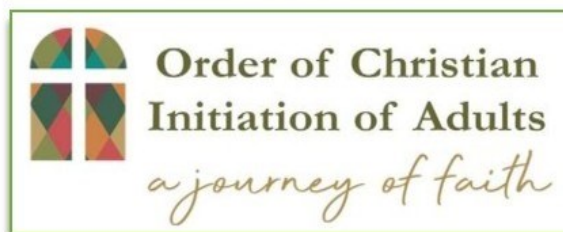
Family Grade Mass for Children from St. Mel's Academy and School of Religion – Grade 6

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**



# FIFTH GRADE FAMILY MASS



\*\*\*\*\*  
\* God has saved us by living among us. \*  
\* He lived in a family, an everyday life. \*  
\* He did not avoid difficulties, but \*  
\* rather chose a family “experienced in \*  
\* suffering,” as if to tell our families: \*  
\* “You are not alone!” \*  
\* - Pope Francis \*  
\*\*\*\*\*





## St. Mel's Leisure Club



### 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.

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.

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

### 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.

## The St. Mel's Men's Club / Father's Guild

### Reminder

Our next General Meeting is in the St. Mel's Men's Club at the 27th Avenue Entrance on Friday, February 9th at 8:00 PM

We always welcome new members  
Come down to enjoy a good meal  
and a great conversation

## 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.



# Save the Date

We are celebrating the St. Mel Class of 2014  
on their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary!!

Saturday, June 22, 2024

Father O'Malley Hall

6:30-10:30 p.m.

This reunion is for the Class of '14 students  
and their families!

We are beginning the evening with 5 p.m. mass  
followed by the celebration in  
Father O'Malley Hall at 6:30 p.m.  
More information will be forthcoming!

***2014~2024***

If you wish to be part of the planning committee, please let us know by 2/29:

Sue Mazzella @ [simazzella@aol.com](mailto:simazzella@aol.com)

Dorian Mecir @ [dorianc67@aol.com](mailto:dorianc67@aol.com)

Kathy Siano @ [emeraldcity66@verizon.net](mailto:emeraldcity66@verizon.net)

Please share with any members of the Class of 2014!

# Apostles Creed

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

judge	forgiveness	hand	day	rose	third	descended
Pilate	Virgin	Ghost	Holy	Son	Amen	ascended
buried	living	conceived	life	Lord	dead	born
everlasting	come	Pontius	saints	heaven	body	seated
hell	suffered	almighty	will	crucified	Mary	earth
Spirit	God	right	communion	resurrection	Jesus	believe
Christ	Father	maker				



## Lenten Practices

Lent begins on the 14<sup>th</sup>, St. Valentine's Day. It's rather fitting since Lent is about love of God and neighbor. Let's explore some possible Lenten Practices.

The pillars of Lent are: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving (charitable works).

**Prayer:** Attend daily Mass – Read the Sunday Gospel before Mass – Make the Stations of the Cross – Pray a family rosary once a week – Visit church and spend some quiet time with Our Lord – Plan your confession before Holy Week.

**Fasting:** Observe fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday – Abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Fridays of Lent – Give up something for Lent (Try something instead of coffee, candy, or cigarettes: perhaps talking ill about or pre-judging others) – Carve out unplugged time periods (phone, social media, tv) – Give away something that you might be too attached to – Avoid (or try to avoid) one of your “habitual sins” that you have become too accustomed to in your daily life.

**Almsgiving:** Set aside someplace for you or the family to put money for the poor – volunteer somewhere that serves the needy – participate in a food or clothing drive (perhaps be a bit more generous with your donation) – practice charity to those closest to you (compliments, second chances, cards, emails, phone calls) – Ponder what others might be going through.

*Egeria Inserts are an endeavor of [egeriathepilgrim.com](http://egeriathepilgrim.com)*



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F: 718.279.3981  
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• Satin & Silk Ensembles • Figurines  
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Unique Gifts For Every Budget



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