# **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.



This Wednesday some people will get a "kiss" with their ashes.

A Hershey's Kiss that is!

Sharing the same day, Valentine's makes Ash Wednesday extra sweet this year.

You ask: How does a day filled with gooey sentiment give sweetness to a day marked by fasting, penance, and prayer?

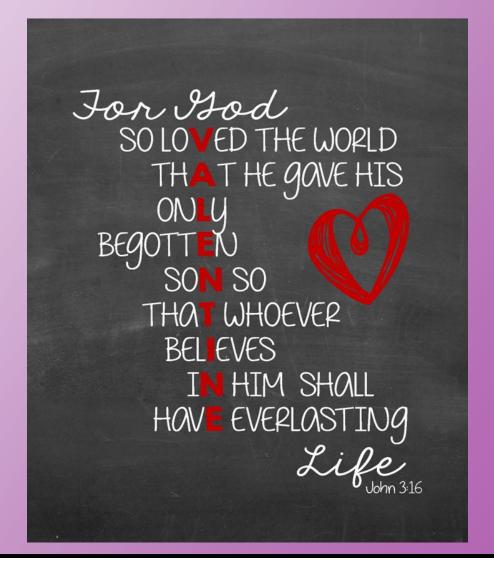
Answer: John 3:16: "God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not be lost but may have eternal life."

Therefore, Ash Wednesday is the prelude to The Greatest Love Story Ever Told!

As true love is freely given so too must it be freely received.

May our Lenten fasting, works of penance, and acts of charity help us to remove the things that hinder us from generously reciprocating to God's Love; to faithfully following the way and teachings of Jesus.

Blessed Lent! Father Fonti



	Mass Intentions - February 11, 2024
SAT	2/10
5:00	Severino Napolitano
SUN	2/11
7:30	James Zaput
9:00	Girolamo DiPiazza
	Giuseppina & Angelo LoBrutto
	Luigi & Gina Pedalino
	Americo Chima, Angelo & Anna Graci
	People of The Parish
10:30	Nicoletta & Umberto Guadagno
12:00	Jean Dodici
MON	2/12
7:00	Ann Marie Tadaldi
9:00	Robert Matthew Donovan
TUES	2/13
7:00	Martha P. Fernandez
9:00	Alex R. Fazzi
WED.	2/14 Ash Wednesday
7:00	Ante Grando
9:00	Rose Galeota
12:00	Francis (Frank) Annatto
3:30	Service
7:00	The Souls in Purgatory
THURS.	2/15
7:00	Raffaela & Louis Fonti
9:00	Deceased Members of The McAuley & McLaughlin Families
FRI.	2/16
7:00	The Deceased Priests and Religious of St. Mel's
9:00	Thomas Clifford
SAT	2/17
9:00	Simon & Sophia An (Living)
	In Gratitude
5:00	Teresa Ribarich
SUN	2/18
7:30	Ann & Jim Soressi
9:00	Domenico & Antonino Casabianca & Leonarda Romano
	Angelo Prestifilippo, Maria & Antonio Matrullo
	People of The Parish
10:30	Michael Joe Sullivan, Bridie Sullivan, & Patrick Sullivan
12:00	Giuseppe & Rosaria Candela



# **Bread & Wine**

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

Peter J. Vlakancic

Gift Given by: Lina & Pete Vlakancic



# **Altar Candles**

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

Ingrid Donovan



# **Sanctuary Candles**

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

James J. Zaput

Gift Given by: The Zaput Family



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.

# 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**
- 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

We pray for those recently deceased from our parish:

Mary Long, Rose Galeota, Gloria Staiano, & Frank Cirri Sr.

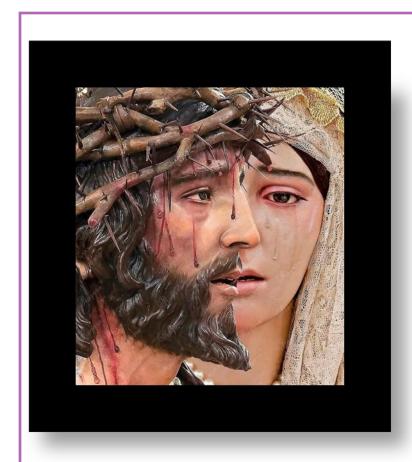
- Carol VitoBello
- Giovanna Palmese
- Olga Scopa
- Tom Hummel
- Edda Iacona
- Bob Mistretta
- Patricia Lamagna
- Lester Kuczynski
- Beverly Ilchert
- Danielle Byrd
- Patricia Suarz
- Lena Bae
- Antoinette Ruotolo
- Charles Ragnauth





Ashes will be distributed at:

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



# STATIONS OF THE CROSS FRIDAYS OF THE LENT

9:30 AM (English)

1:00 PM (Italian)

**7:00 PM (English)** 

"We Adore You, O Christ, and We Praise You. Because by Your Holy Cross, You Have Redeemed the World."

# A Lenten Reflection...



February 17 for all who seek God with February 24 the Catholic Church, and Congress by visiting www. who will be received into tomorrow. Say a prayer the full communion of for the elect, for those SATURDAY baptized at the Easter eucharisticrevival.org. the Rite of Election and the Eucharistic **Eucharistic Revival** Many who will be a sincere heart. LENT 2024 Reflect. Repent. Restore. simply, accompanying our February 16 February 23 streaming, gaming, social brothers and sisters who commit to living more lack material resources. pleasure and spend the media, or some other extra time praying or meatless recipes and Fast from television, Explore some new reading the Bible. Apostle. Pray for the Holy February 15 February 22 his ministry may help the Today is the Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter, that Chair of Saint Peter the Father, who sits on the discipline - ascesis - as Church grow in faith. high mountain' in the company of Jesus and experience of spiritual THURSDAY "During Lent we are (Pope Francis, Message invited to ascend 'a God's holy people." to live a particular for Lent 2023) February 14 behold, now is the day of body handed over for us and February 21 again offered to God by the Mass the Passion of Christ WEDNESDAY the blood poured out for the forgiveness of sins are is made present, and the (Order of Penance, no. 2) Behold, now is a very "In the Sacrifice of the Ash Wednesday acceptable time; the whole world." Lent Begins (2 Cor 6:2) salvation. tonight and make plans to February 20 Examine your conscience receive the Sacrament of Penance during Lent. TUESDAY before going to bed February 19 by grace, to overcoming our lack of faith and our commitment, sustained Jesus on the way of the resistance to following "Lenten penance is a (Pope Francis, Message MONDAY for Lent 2023) Repent, and believe in the February 18 fulfillment. The kingdom First Sunday of Lent "This is the time of SUNDAY of God is at hand.

# ASH WEDNESDAY

LENT BEGINS

# WHAT IS LENT?

The **40-day period** from Ash Wednesday and before Easter Sunday. It is marked by **prayer**, fasting, abstinence, and other acts of penance.

PRAYING ---- FASTING ---- ABSTINANCE







# WHAT IS FASTING?



One meal a day, and two smaller meals which if added together would not exceed one full meal.

# **DAYS OF FAST?**

Ash Wednesday

**Good Friday** 

# WHO ARE REQUIRED?

Catholics from age < 18 to 59 >





The sick and expectant mothers are excused from fasting.

# WHAT IS ABSTINENCE?









Abstinence is refraining from eating meat. Meat is considered to be the flesh and organs of mammals and fowl.

# DAYS OF ABSTINENCE?

Ash Wednesday

All Fridays of Lent

**Good Friday** 

# WHO ARE REQUIRED?

Mandatory for everyone



older than years old

# Lantan Raflaction 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

Hosted by the Men's Club \$25 per person



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

# **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 <a href="mailto:stmelfaithformation@gmail.com">stmelfaithformation@gmail.com</a> and <a href="mailto:

## SAVE THE DATE - Sunday February 11, 2024, at 10:30 am Mass

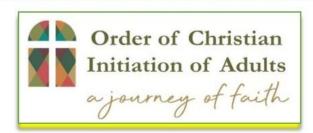
Family Grade Mass for Children from St. Mel's Academy and School of Religion – Grade 6

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 or at 718-461-9840



# Catholic Schools Week at St. Mel's Catholic Academy





































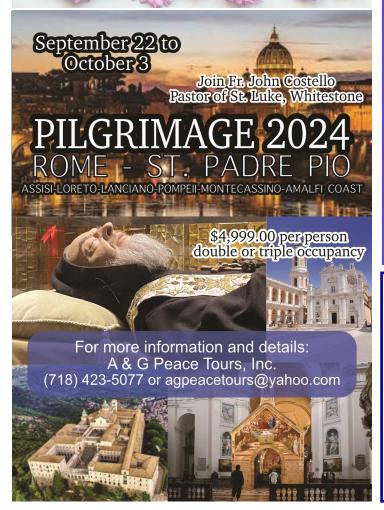














#### Stay Connected to St. Mel's Church

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.

# 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.

# February 4, 2024 Mass Attendance Total = 735

5:00 PM—145 7:30 AM—108 9:00 AM—110 10:30 AM—207

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.



# Save the Date

We are celebrating the St. Mel Classes of 2014 on their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and 1974 on their 50<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 and '74 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!

# 1974 ~ 2014 ~ 2024

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

Sue Mazzella @ simazzella@aol.com

Dorian Mecir @ dorianc67@aol.com

Kathy Siano @ emeraldcity66@verizon.net

Maureen Cooke @ moe9091@optonline.net (Class of 1974)

Please share with any members of the Class of 2014 and 1974!

# Season of Lent

0 0 U Н U S E G В Q Z В G S U W J Ε Т Н E M N Ε D Q J A Α C Z P S Ε N E В Ρ R E Т A N M N K В Κ H G 1 E C E S P S G R G T Υ C D W M U Т D M U D L Α P В J U В U R 1 Y M В F Т 0 E R Ε K J Q ٧ C Z 0 C S C S G X G S P X D ٧ U A 0 N Q D L X M J M A R Т P A M S U N D A Y M В 0 X E K F G Т G K P F S R J Z Υ Χ Ε U D X Ε S T E R Q Α Ν Α J A N Α Υ Y Z Υ 0 Т ٧ N R Т A G K Q F C X K В N ı ı N S S Ρ Q Ε U C R Т 0 Н J F 0 R S 7 В Z Н ı Α K I S Н Ε D E S D Υ 0 Υ Ε A Z J J A A W N Α M Α C S R Ρ S C S K W ٧ F Α Ε Ρ Α Υ L ٧ 0 D R L A X S 0 U C Q Н S ٧ S U U F F X X R Т X 1 L F K U K R C G R C C C U X 0 P 0 J R T S Υ A Q ٧ I S S R S M S K A 0 Т L Ε N M ٧ X U H Ī J Α M L D C Q ٧ K C E A E P D C G R ٧ Υ N Н L L Α Α K R C Z D S G E D E M Χ Ε Т E M Ε G F E Q Χ N Α M P J 0 T G R D M Т В U P D A Ρ J X N H Υ M U D T C F Ε В P S Z Τ Υ 1 P Z Ε Z В A S C U M Т A 0 S Q S C В R T ٧ Z Υ В 0 G 0 Χ K D A K S L U Z U S Κ Z D Ε В M Υ В Т D S Χ Ε P В G Ν M L Ν ı M Α S Χ X U C Q L Z В P Q F Q K Ρ K В ı L Ν L J Α Ν Z C D Н R S T Т Υ Z Υ Т ٧ W I I A N I U ٧ Ε E В S Υ P 0 N Т U Ρ Ε C E K U S N A Т Н

Palm Sunday Crucifix Peter Cross Pontius Pilate INRI Apostles Lent
Barabbas
Jerusalem
Ash Wednesday
Pentecost
Gethsemane

Jesus Tomb God Wine Mary Magdalene Easter Good Friday Resurrection Eucharist Last Supper Judas Christianity



# Ash Wednesday

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. The use of ashes (and sackcloth) are rooted in the ancient Jewish traditions of penance and fasting found most notably in the book of Jonah. Jesus also uses the image when speaking of the inhabitants of Tyre and Sidon (Mt 11:21). There are accounts of early Christian usage of ashes from around the year 200.

Ashes are a profoundly humbling reminder that God created us from the dust of the earth. Upon receiving ashes, we may hear: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The ashes we receive are made from burning the palm branches from last year's Holy Week and are a visible sign of internal penance which is accompanied by fasting.

In the 700s ashes were used at the start of the preparations for Easter. The first formula for receiving ashes highlights the purpose of Lent and, indeed, all Christian life: "Repent and believe in the Gospel." Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten Season. It's a season of prayer, preparation, penance and fasting which leads us better prepared to the celebration of Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

While symbolizing penance, ashes also remind us of God's mercy as experienced by the Ninevites of Jonna's time.

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> 4-5 hours per day. Must be able to speak Italian or Sicilian.

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