

Church of Saint Mel

2615 154th St., Flushing, NY 11354

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

www.stmels-queens.org



Sunday, March 3, 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
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.



It has been said that “the first step is the hardest in every journey.”

I am sure if you asked our parish Second Graders they would agree.

Next Saturday they will make their First Reconciliation.

It is never easy nor comfortable to admit to ourselves and before God that we have done wrong. And yet this cleansing is necessary for those who journey towards Heaven.

Our Second Graders anticipate making their First Holy Communion in May. As they have deepened their knowledge and love of God through their religious studies, they have come to know and believe that our souls need to be pure and peaceful to worthily receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

Crossing the Threshold of Mercy (aka: stepping into a confessional) takes courage.

I admire our children’s courage, their confidence in God who is kind and merciful.

May their example encourage you and me to take / make this step...to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Easter.

Confessions are heard every Saturday at 11:00 AM or by appointment with one of us priests. You can also celebrate the Sacrament at one of our deanery parishes on March 25th - Reconciliation Monday. A schedule of times will be forthcoming.

As the saintly priest St. John Vianney reminded the souls entrusted to his care, So too I remind the souls entrusted to mine: *“Our sins are nothing but a grain of sand alongside the great mountain of the mercy of God.”*

Father Fonti



Mass Intentions - March 3, 2024

SAT	3/2
5:00	Brother Anthony Cervasio
SUN	3/3
7:30	Louis Aresu
9:00	Sebastian Parisi
	Giuseppe Lafronza
	Americo Chima & Angelo & Anna Graci
	Angelo LoBrutto
	Fr. Barozzi (Birthday Wishes) (Living)
	People of The Parish
10:30	Maria Palma, Giuseppe Bonforte, Maria & Stefano Smolizza, Livio Smolizza, & Mafalda Vucina
12:00	Robert Puccio
MON	3/4
7:00	Ida & Victor Riglione
9:00	Amalia & Bartol Travaglia
TUES	3/5
7:00	Concetta Scerbo
9:00	Larry Sullivan (10th Anniversary in Heaven)
WED.	3/6
7:00	Madeline DeMarco
9:00	Vincenza & Rudolf Gualtieri
THURS.	3/7
7:00	Emilia & Joseph Pupo
9:00	Ralph Paterno
FRI.	3/8
7:00	Vincenzo, Maria, Antonio, Domenico Rocchio, & Robert Scarito
9:00	Bianka & Vlado Rasporich
SAT	3/9
9:00	All Souls in Purgatory
	Mary Pandone
	Li Jian Tao (Li Joseph)
	In Honor of The Holy Mary
	Anna Vitale
	Josip (Joseph) Sirotych
5:00	Walter Ilchert (95th Birthday in Heaven)
SUN	3/10
7:30	Frank & Jane DiTaranto
9:00	Robert Gatti
	Sebastian Parisi
	The People of The Parish
10:30	Giuseppe D'Amico, Giovanni D'Amico, & Pietro Gagliano
12:00	John DiVanna



Bread & Wine

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

Amalia & Bartol Travaglia

Gift Given by: Juliana Grzic



Altar Candles

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

***Stefano Inzalaco
Happy Birthday in Heaven***

Gift Given by: The Inzalaco Family



Sanctuary Candles

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

Louis Aresu

Gift Given by: Mom & Family



Newly Enrolled in the Purgatorial Society

February, 2024

***Rose Galeota
Eugenia Madonna
Thomas Nicosia
Regina Modica, RN
Lelio & Robert Mazzoni
Michele & Maria Scopa
Emilia Foschi***

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...

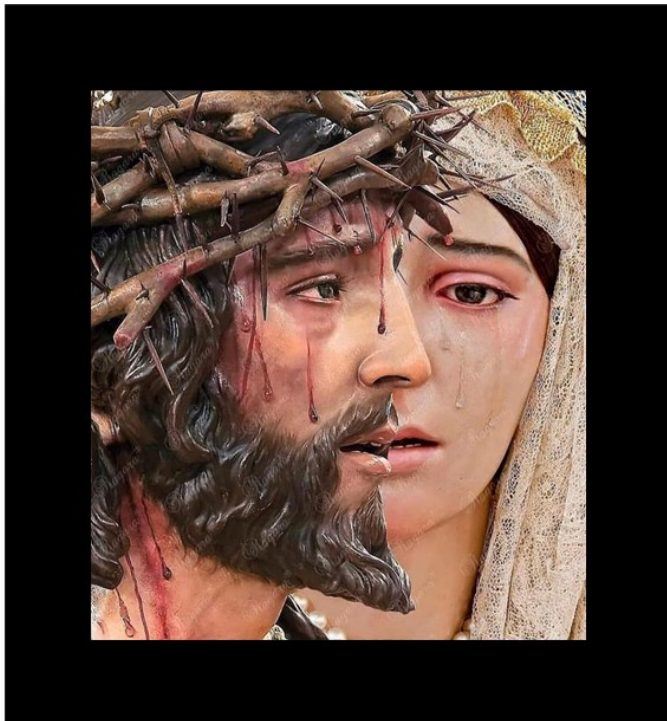
Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need. Amen

We pray for all those who are sick, especially:

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

We pray for those recently deceased from our parish:

Emilia Foschi & Vita Petruso



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FRIDAYS IN 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.”

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





At St. Mel's Catholic Academy...



We are 100 days smarter!

At first I thought some of our students may have stepped into a time machine over night as they came to school on Monday, February 12th looking quite a bit older and wiser. Then I remembered, it was the 100th day of school!!!! PHEW! It is hard to believe that we had already been in school for 100 days. Our kids may be 100 days older but they are also 100 days smarter. They have had 100 days of learning, fun, friendship and making memories. While we only have 180 days together in the school year, let's hope that the next 80 are just as special and productive as the first 100. Boys and girls, while you looked adorably "old" on the 100th day of school, don't be in a rush to grow up, cherish each and every day .



A Lenten Reflection...



Give up complaining; focus on gratitude
Give up harsh judgments; think kindly thoughts
Give up worry; trust divine Providence
Give up discouragement; be full of hope
Give up bitterness; turn to forgiveness
Give up hatred; return good for evil
Give up negativism; be positive
Give up pettiness; become mature
Give up jealousy; pray for trust

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

0433

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 comeregarono 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.

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.

ASSOCIAZIONE ITALO-AMERICANA DI SAN MEL

**LA GRANDE FESTA DI
SAN GIUSEPPE**



LA MESSA SOLENNE PER LA FESTA DI SAN GIUSEPPE

MARTEDI, 19 MARZO 2024

7:00 PM

IL CELEBRANTE: IL VESCOVO NICHOLAS DIMARZIO

DOPO LA MESSA, VERRA' DISTRIBUITO

IL PANE BENEDETTO

Parishioners of St. Luke's and St. Mel's

Join us for a private viewing of Cabrini



THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024

AMC Bay Terrace Theater

6:00PM Showing

Tickets are \$20 each

Limited tickets available! First come, first served.

Please come to St. Luke or St. Mel's rectory offices to purchase your tickets.

All children must be accompanied and supervised by parent or guardian for admission.



Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Number of Tickets: _____



Annual Catholic Appeal 2024

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

Each year **St. Mel R.C. Church** and the Diocese of Brooklyn engage in the **Annual Catholic Appeal** which supports Catholic programs throughout Brooklyn and Queens and affects the lives of countless individuals and families living in our neighborhoods in addition to benefiting our parish. The Annual Catholic Appeal makes possible those programs that no one parish could do alone.

Why is your participation important?

As followers of Jesus here at **St. Mel R.C. Church**, we understand our responsibility to our parish implies a responsibility to the diocese which unites us together with the entire Catholic community as the one body of Christ.

When one part of the body does not participate, the entire body suffers and makes it harder to function. Likewise, your participation in this Appeal, over and above your regular Sunday offering, will determine the ability of **St. Mel R.C. Church** to faithfully support the mission of Christ while also providing the needed support we receive as one parish, which is part of the larger Catholic Church.

Please join us to respond as the Church of Christ called to Communion, Participation & Mission in Brooklyn and Queens through a pledge to the **Annual Catholic Appeal** today at AnnualCatholicAppeal.org or text **DONATE** to 917-336-1255

The **Annual Catholic Appeal** seeks to raise a minimum of \$8 million to provide programs and ministries throughout the Diocese and support the local efforts of parishes like ours.

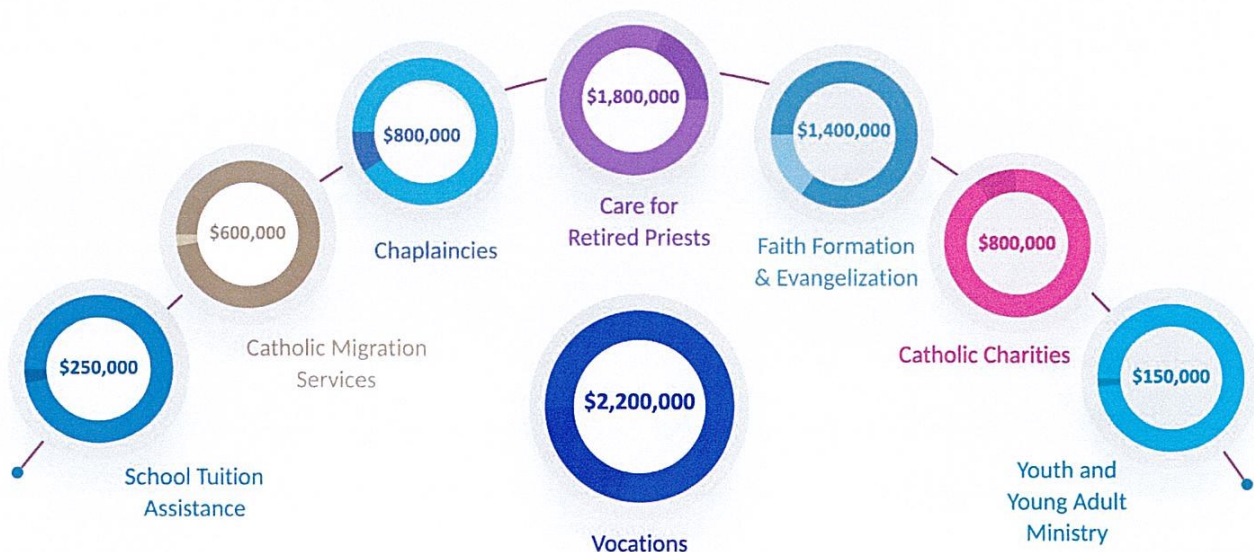
The goal at St. Mel R.C. Church is \$84,065

Once we exceed our goal, we will then receive 100% of all funds raised above this figure directly back to our parish.

For questions regarding the **Annual Catholic Appeal**, or to schedule an appointment to make a gift to the parish, please contact the
Parish Office –
(718) 886-0201

**Called to
Communion,
Participation &
Mission**

What does the Annual Catholic Appeal Support?



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 March 3, 2024, at 10:30 am Mass

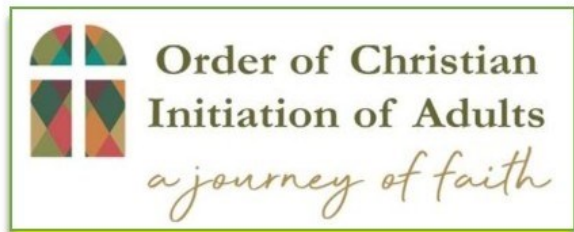
Mass for Children and Families of Confirmation Candidates from the School of Religion

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



A GUIDE TO... *Lent*



WHAT IS LENT?

Traditionally Lent is the Liturgical season of 40 days leading up to Easter Sunday that starts with Ash Wednesday. It's one of the most important times of year for us as Catholics.

While Advent is a celebration and a time of great anticipation, Lent is more frequently seen as a time of solemn observance and preparation for the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter.



WHEN IS LENT?

It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday evening at the Easter Vigil Mass. Lent lasts for 40 days and reminds us of the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert when he was tempted before beginning his mission. Some contend that Sundays are not counted in Lent because this day is linked with the resurrection.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO DURING LENT?

Lent is a time to notice God's work and to receive God's mercy. Fasting, Charitable works (Almsgiving) and prayer are the three traditional practices during Lent.

The scriptures during this time, challenge us to also consider how we can repair our relationship with God and with others to become the person that God calls us to be. It is a time to seek healing and reconciliation, and a time for renewing and restoring our commitment to God. It is a time for shedding some of the 'baggage' of our lives that prevents us from being totally open to God. The season of Lent challenges us to ask the questions: "What is it in my life that is in need of healing?" "What could I change in my life in order to more fully live the Gospel values?"

WHY 40 DAYS?

The number 40 has symbolic significance. It is a traditional number symbolising a lifetime. In the Bible it is used to suggest a generation or a symbolic lifetime...a period of growth and change. Thus Moses stayed on the Mountain of God forty days (Exodus 24:18 and 34:28), the spies were in the land for forty days (Numbers 13:25), Elijah travelled forty days before he reached the cave where he had his vision (1 Kings 19:8), Nineveh was given forty days to repent (Jonah 3:4), and most importantly, prior to undertaking his ministry, Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness praying and fasting (Matthew 4:2).

WHAT IS THE LITURGICAL COLOUR OF LENT?

Purple, is the liturgical colour worn during the season of Lent as it signifies penance, preparation and humility. The Scriptures tell us that a purple garment was placed on Jesus during his Passion as a sign of mockery. In the past, purple was also a sign of wealth, power and royalty as the dye was the most expensive. Other colours are worn at special times during Lent: rose, red and white.

St. Mel's Leisure Club



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.

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

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.

September 22 to
October 3

Join Fr. John Costello
Pastor of St. Luke, Whitestone

PILGRIMAGE 2024

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For more information and details:

A & G Peace Tours, Inc.

(718) 423-5077 or ageacetours@yahoo.com

February 25, 2024

Mass Attendance Total = 714

5:00 PM—179

7:30 AM—96

9:00 AM—132

10:30 AM—177

12:00 PM—130

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 10th anniversary and
1974 on their 50th 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!



Offering of Mass Intentions

The celebration of Holy Mass brings certain benefits or fruits as the faithful recall the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. These general fruits or benefits of the Mass are lavished upon the whole Church community living and deceased. Nevertheless, since the second century there has been the understanding that special graces and blessings are applied to the particular intention of each Mass: “for whom the Mass is offered.”

While Pope Leo XIII taught “the grace of mutual love among the living, strengthened and increased by the sacrament of the Eucharist, flows, especially by virtue of the Sacrifice [of Holy Mass] to all who belong to the communion of saints,” you might simply recall attending a Mass for a specific person/intention offered by your parents or family.

The opportunity to pray in a special way for the repose of the soul of a loved one or other prayerful intention is made available each day with announced Mass offerings. You may choose to commemorate a death anniversary, wedding anniversary, birthday remembrance or simply pray in thanksgiving. Visit the parish office for more information about the offering of Mass intentions.

Egeria Inserts are an endeavor of egeriathepilgrim.com



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