

Church of Saint Mel

2615 154th St., Flushing, NY 11354

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

www.stmels-queens.org



Sunday, May 24, 2026

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 - 8:00 A.M. (Bilingual),
10:00 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: Stephen Somers

Principal: Lauren Giacalone, M.S. Childhood Ed., M.S.
School Leadership

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.



These words of our 40th President, Ronald Reagan, have stayed with me since he delivered them at the end of his presidency in 1989: *“You can go to live in France, but you cannot become a Frenchman. You can go to live in Germany or Turkey or Japan, but you cannot become a German, a Turk, or a Japanese. But anyone, from any corner of the Earth, can come to live in America and become an American.”*

When he left office, I was living in Italy. Five months into my five-year stay in Rome, I witnessed the peaceful transition of power from President Reagan to George H. W. Bush — 6,000 miles away from the land I proudly and gratefully call home — the United States of America.

My seminary years in Rome were among the happiest and most memorable of my life. Living in the country where each one of my grandparents was born brought me tremendous joy. Studying at the epicenter of Catholicism, close to the Pope, alongside seminarians from across the United States and around the world, was a privilege for which I will remain eternally grateful.

Ironically, it was by living outside of America that I truly came to appreciate the beauty and gift of our Nation. My Italian hosts cared for me warmly and graciously. I experienced the magnificent flavors, culture, and timeless beauty of Europe. Yet home was America.

The only day I cried during those five years was on my first Thanksgiving abroad, during the singing of “God Bless America.” Outside the seminary walls, life in Rome was fully Italian. But inside our refectory, surrounded by brother seminarians from nearly every corner of the United States, we gathered around tables filled with pasta and turkey, far from the homes and families that had nourished us since childhood, and far from the country we proudly and gratefully called our own.

You have probably noticed the American flags displayed around our church and school property. I asked our Italian American Association and Men’s Club if they would help prepare our parish for our nation’s 250th birthday, and with a generous and resounding “yes,” they stepped forward. They deserve our applause and gratitude.

At a time when our country is deeply divided, and when war and unrest often overshadow the joy of this historic milestone, I wanted to ensure that we still mark this moment with the colors that unite us as one people. I also wanted to honor the countless men and women who, over the past 250 years, have worn the uniform of our Nation to defend the freedoms we enjoy — freedoms unlike anywhere else in the world. And this year especially, as we approach the 25th anniversary of September 11th, we renew our promise never to forget.

This Memorial Day weekend, we remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice — those whose blood secured the rights and liberties of people from every “corner of the Earth” who now have the privilege of living in America and being called Americans.

When I speak to friends and family about the joy of being your pastor, I often brag about the beautiful cultural diversity of our parish and Academy. Ours is truly a melting pot — enriched by the beauty, talents, traditions, and contributions of people from nations across the entire world. Yet

here, we are one family, united not only by our faith in Christ, but also by the shared blessing of calling this great Nation our home.

God, we beg You: Bless America. One of the youngest nations on earth, she reflects Your creative beauty in every face that lives here and, in every language, spoken here. Bless her, Lord. May she — may we — never forget how good we have it, nor the tremendous price that has been paid to preserve it. Keep us mindful of the sacrifices of those who came before us: the brave men and women who defended liberty, upheld justice, and gave their lives so that future generations might live in freedom. Heal what divides us. Strengthen what unites us. Renew in us gratitude for the blessings we too often take for granted. May our churches remain places of faith, our homes places of love, our communities places of respect, and our Nation a beacon of hope for people from every corner of the earth. And may we never be ashamed to Thank You for the gift of being Americans.

Father Fonti



Mass Intentions - May 24, 2026

Saturday, May 23

5:00 John & Teresa Ribarich

Sunday, May 24

8:00 Kevin Shields
Vincenza Ventimiglia
Thomas Wise
Rocco Loccisano
Marilyn Rodriguez

10:00 Michael Cob, Ronnie Eldridge, & Delia Dalton

12:00 Paddy Reilly & Mary Murphy

Monday, May 25

9:00 Benedict J. Tockarszewsky Sr.

Tuesday, May 26

7:00 Jennifer Lynn Fiorino

9:00 Emilia & Giuseppe Belulovich

Wednesday, May 27

7:00 Fedro Piagneri

9:00 Rosaria Brucculeri

Thursday, May 28

7:00 Giuseppe Furnari

9:00 Rita & Richard T. Higgins (Wedding Anniversary)

Friday, May 29

7:00 Giuseppe Lupo

9:00 Kevin J. Shields

Saturday, May 30

9:00 Mario Codispoti

5:00 Dad Cioffi (in Heaven)

Sunday, May 31

8:00 Maria Mattrella
Vincenza Ventimiglia
Gina LoBrutto
Elisa Barone
Eduardo Agliata

10:00 Nicoletta & Umberto Guadagno

12:00 Ellen McDumott & Nellie Cafferky



Bread and Wine

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

*Benedict J. Tockarszewsky Sr.,
Gualteri, LaCorazza, &
Tockarszewsky Families*

Given by: Marie Tockarszewsky

Altar Candles

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

Collazo Family

Given By: Alba & Paul Bonfilio

Sanctuary Candles

This week the Sanctuary Candle donated in Loving Memory of:

Bonfilio Family

Given by: Alba & Paul Bonfilio

Newly Enrolled in the Purgatorial Society

April 2026

<i>Jennifer Fiorino</i>	<i>Angela Cangialosi</i>
<i>Francesco Amato</i>	<i>John Hudson Dilgen</i>
<i>Rosaria Brucculeri</i>	<i>Thomas R. Wise</i>
<i>Anthony Flores</i>	<i>Patricia Cardaro</i>



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 Sperrazza
- Susan Trezioso
- Nick Roberto
- Pasqualina Lucciola
- Julia Rollo
- Francesca Cecile
- Angelo Ragonese
- Nick O'Donnell
- Patricia O'Donnell
- Kristian Mendez
- Jennifer Russo
- Roseann Orlando
- Tom Sammel
- Freda Cassini
- Jacinta Carolan
- Assunta Goldone
- Kruno Pandzic
- Carol Sturm
- Martha Catul
- Dominick Fortino
- RoseAnn Dell Apenna
- Alida Addeo
- Yolanda Gatti
- Carmen A. Leites
- Anthony Marino
- George Behringer
- Avery Santiago
- Susan Caraher
- Brian Finnerty
- Lee Ragusa
- Paul Adessa
- Joanne Perricelli Drenckhahn
- Dottie Giordano
- Siena Rose Romagnuolo
- David G.
- Rosa Annibale
- Mia Elizabeth Skaats
- Nicky O'Donnell
- Jimmy Caraher
- John Holmes
- Venice Hernandez
- Eileen McBride
- Cami Yandoli
- Lynn Gallagher
- Niki Angelopoulos
- Bryan Day
- Theresa Bedell
- Angela Infantino
- Giovanna Palmese
- Olga Scopa
- Tom Hummel
- Bob Mistretta
- Lester Kuczynski
- Beverly Ilchert
- Patricia Suarz
- Lena Bae
- Antoinette Ruotolo
- Giovanna Mazzoni
- James Burns
- Giovanni Badalamente
- Kaylie Santana
- Michelle Milano
- Joseph Onorato
- Jean Cettina
- Jean Felts
- Denise Breidenbach
- Kathleen O'Connell
- Ann Edman
- Angela Natale
- Luisa Frustaci
- Gabriel Angulo
- Thomas McNamara
- Joan Brennan
- Lorretta Iamielli
- Susan Lang
- John McDwer
- Joey Ortiz
- Patricia Lamagna
- Paul Malichek
- Tom Everitt
- Eileen Lennon
- Francie Woods
- Amber
- Joanne Fennell
- Francesca Yelleco
- Anna Somers
- Donna Kozlowski
- Bettyann Wong
- Peter Cettina

We pray for those recently deceased from our parish:

Juanita Veloz & Frederick Passarella

The Rectory office will be close on
Monday, May 25th in
observance of Memorial Day.





HONORING
★ THOSE WHO ★
Serve and Have Served

★ FAITH ★ FREEDOM ★ GRATITUDE



As our Nation approaches the celebration of the **250th Anniversary** of its founding, we are reminded with gratitude of the many men and women who have served our country with courage, sacrifice, and love. Their willingness to defend the blessings of liberty reflects the words of our Lord: *“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”*



In preparation for Independence Day and our Nation’s upcoming 250th Anniversary celebration, we would like to honor the service men and women of our own parish family of **St. Mel’s** — both living and deceased.



Parishioners are invited to submit the names of family members, relatives, or parishioners who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Names may be emailed to the rectory office at office@stmels-queens.org or dropped off in writing at the rectory office, Monday through Friday, from 9:00am–3:00pm, **no later than Monday, June 15th.**



These names will be featured in a special bulletin tribute leading up to the July 4th celebration and again as part of our parish observance of America’s 250th Anniversary.

MAY WE NEVER TAKE FOR GRANTED THE SACRIFICES
MADE ON OUR BEHALF, AND MAY WE CONTINUE TO PRAY
FOR ALL WHO SERVE OUR NATION, FOR OUR VETERANS,
FOR THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN SERVICE,
AND FOR PEACE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.



*God bless
America,*

and God bless the faithful
men and women who serve
and have served her so nobly
for the cause of freedom.

Registration IS OPEN

K - 8th Grade

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR
CALL TO SET UP A TOUR

- Strong Catholic Identity
- Dedicated Faculty
- Before and After Care
- UPK for All
- Small Class Sizes
- Spanish - K-8th Grade
- Art
- Music
- STEM Lab
- Technology
- After School Clubs



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FLUSHING, NY 11354

AND THAT'S A WRAP...

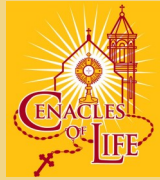
Sharing a little faith-filled fun from our 2025-2026 Religious Education year.



See You Next Year!

All new and returning families are asked to re-register using the QR Code





Cenacles of Life St. Mel's Church

Sacrifice one hour every Thursday at 11:00 AM. We pray the Rosary and specific prayers that promote the culture of life. Please join us in the church (chapel if a funeral.)

Bundle Saturday – St. Vincent dePaul

The next bundle Saturday will be **July 11th**. St. Vincent de Paul will have a truck in the St. Mel's parking lot from 9:00am– 12:00pm.

Lightly used clothing is needed. They also accept shoes, handbags, towels, and linens. Thank you for your generosity.




YCP BROOKLYN

LAUNCH PARTY

Young Catholic Professionals Brooklyn is a community of young professionals in their 20s and 30s striving to integrate faith, work, and purpose through connection, growth, and shared values.

 **MAY 28**

 **501 Union
501 Union St
Brooklyn, New York**

 **7 PM - 9 PM**



RSVP HERE



Pilgrimage to the FEAST DAY OF ST. ANTHONY DE PADUA

Shrine of St. Margaret in Bridgeport, CT
2523 Park Ave, Bridgeport, CT 06604

Sunday June 14, 2026
Cost of Bus \$45 per person

Please RSVP by June 10, 2026 / No Refunds!

2 Location Pick Up

St. Francis of Assisi Church 21-17 45th St, Astoria @ 8:00 AM Pick Up
St. Mel's Church 26-15 154th Street, Flushing @ 8:20 AM Pick Up

Mass will be celebrated in English and Italian

11:00 AM followed by a procession & live music at 4:00 PM

Please bring lunch if desired if not food will be available after the
Procession

Bus will leave Shrine by 5:30 PM

St. Mel's Call: Giuseppe (347) 255-2215

St. Francis Call: Maria (917) 943-7156

Italian American Association of St. Mel's is
collaborating with Giuseppe for this trip



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St. Mel's Catholic Academy

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BUDDY DAY

SCHEDULE TODAY

Discover what makes St. Mel's a special place to learn and grow at our Buddy Day! Prospective students are invited to spend the day at our school, meet our dedicated teachers and enthusiastic students, and learn more about our academic programs, faith-based education, and diverse extracurricular opportunities that are offered at St. Mel's.

Call or email Josephine Modano
jmodano@stmelsschool.org



MARKET VENDORS

Sal & Jerry's Bakery
Saha Guys
Abundance Acres
Goodale Farms
American Pride Seafood
Jessy's Empanandas
Ciancarelli Greens
Big Apple Fungi
Horman's Pickles
La Gustosa Ravioli
Lavender Sprig Bake House
Steiner's Gluten Free

Cafe Mam
Terranut
Coco Elephant
Wilk Apiary
Nolasco Farm
Blind Date With A Book
Seles Teres
Giulirose Designs
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Local Vendors, Fresh Produce,
Handmade Goods beginning
May 30th from 8 AM - 12 PM

St. Mel's
154-24 26th Avenue
Flushing, NY 11354

Paschal Candle



*In Loving Memory of Thomas J. Farrell
"Forever in our Hearts"*

*In Loving Memory of James J. Zaput
"Forever in our Hearts"*

*In Loving Memory of Jennifer Fiorino
"Forever in our Hearts"*

*In Loving Memory of The Lillis and Fleming Families
"Forever in our Hearts"*

*In Loving Memory of Plinio Lucciola
With Love, His Wife, Children, & Grandchildren*

*For The Living and Deceased Members of The Howell and
McCabe Families*

*In Loving Memory of Brother William J. Kemmerer, F.S.C
With Love, Mark & Arlene Kemmerer*



Paschal Candle



*In Loving Memory of Christina Therese Jordan
Given with Love by her Family*

*In Loving Memory of George & John Spicijaric
With Love, The Spicijaric Family*

*In Loving Memory of Jennifer Fiorino
With Love, Lina Vlakancik*

*In Loving Memory of Gianni Rucker
With Love, Lina & Pete Vlakancic*

*In Loving Memory of Ellen Dippold McNamara &
Aline Dippold*

In Loving Memory of Fricchione & Gentile Families

*In Loving Memory of Alfons & Theresia Merkle
With Love, Mark & Arlene Kemmerer*



Paschal Candle



In Loving Memory of Helen & Thomas Piazza

“Forever in our Hearts:

With Love, The Sullivan Family

*In Loving Memory of The Segrave, Kehoe, Harte, & Briscoe
Families*

In Loving Memory of Joan, Joe, Kevin, & Dennis Hopkins

*In Loving Memory of The Deceased Members of the Hill &
Hopkins Families*

*In Loving Memory of Roseann & Lou Angelico, Marylyn &
John Tie, & Walter Ilchert*

In Loving Memory of Lt. John M. Szczech, FDNY

With Love, Pat & Barbara Longo

In Loving Memory of Robert Pizzo, Sr.

With Love, The Kemmerer & Pizzo Families



Paschal Candle



In Loving Memory of Joseph John DeAnnuntis

With Love, The DeAnnuntis Family

*The Living and Deceased Members of The Ray, Cassata,
Morell, & Ryan Families*

*In Loving Memory of Eloy Bustalinio, Julita Bustalinio, Erlin
Bustalinio, & Edelin Bustalinio*

*In Loving Memory of Steve Chung Wah Chien, Mathia Yao Ting
Chien, Maria Sau Kuen Chiu, Alejandro C. Reyes,
Estela Y. Reyes*

In Loving Memory of Martha Caselli

*In Loving Memory of Maria, Antonia, and Angelo Alaimo,
Alfonsa & Pietro Agro, & Giuseppina & Antonio Alaimo*



Paschal Candle



*In Loving Memory of John Rucker
"Forever in our Hearts"*

*In Loving Memory of The Deceased Members of The Joyce and
Ghee Families*

With Love, Theres Joyce

In Loving Memory of Teddy, Carmela, & Christopher Kwiath

With Love, Linda & Peter Kwiath

In Loving Memory of Guido & Irene Pariselli

With Love, Linda & Peter Kwiath

*In Loving Memory of Michael J. Smith, Catherine &
Mel Grannell*

With Love, Denise, Kimberly, & David Smith

In Loving Memory of Raffaella and Louis Fonti, Louis Fonti III

With Love, Son and Brother Fr. Fonti





**Our flag doesn't fly
because the wind
moves it, but because
of the last breath of
each soldier who died
protecting it.**

**Remember them with
honor this Memorial Day.**



Monday, June 29 - Friday, July 24th
Father Troike Summer
Leadership Program

This program is designed for rising LEADERS in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades, challenging young men to grow spiritually, academically, athletically, and socially.

Academic - TACHS Prep - Sports - Activities and Games - Prayer and Community



*Scan the QR code to save your spot!
 We're excited to see you there!*



Pentecost - John 20:19-23

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

pentecost

receive

showed

peace

john

disciples

forgive

locked

hands

holy

rejoiced

retain

doors

jesus

side

Breathed

spirit

stood

sins

jews

The Solemnity of Pentecost

Chapter 2 of the Acts of the Apostles recounts for us the day of Pentecost: “When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. . . . Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.”

The word *Pentecost* comes for the Greek meaning “fiftieth day.” For Jews (who also have a feast called Pentecost), it is the fiftieth day after Passover, and for Christians it is the fiftieth day after Easter and the final day of the Easter season. Pentecost is known as the “birthday of the Church,” and communities often celebrate that day the sacrament of Confirmation. The solemnity of Pentecost shares an importance with the Epiphany and ranks after Easter and Christmas.

The red Mass vestments and church décor, as well as additional lighted candles, pay homage to the “tongues of fire” mentioned in the book of Acts. After the last Mass of this day, the Paschal (Easter) Candle is removed from the sanctuary and returned to a location near the baptismal font. Then Ordinary Time resumes on Monday morning.

Come, O Holy Spirit! Renew the face of the Earth!

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