

March 6, 2016
Our Lady Star of the Sea
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Announced Masses

Saturday, March 5

9:00AM Jaime Cucuzza
4:00PM Angela & Joseph Matzelle
5:30PM Mary Schiera

Sunday, March 6

8:00AM Andre Graziano
9:15AM Virginia & Harold Ennis
10:30AM Joseph Ancona
12 Noon Jaime Cucuzza
1:15PM Thomas Saverese
7:00PM Frank Criscuolo

Monday, March 7

9:00AM Amadeo Arena

Tuesday, March 8

9:00 AM Anthony Pepe

Wednesday, March 9

9:00AM Joseph Casazza, Jr.

Thursday, March 10

9:00AM Barbara Gallitta

Friday, March 11

9:00AM Robert Coeline

Saturday, March 12

9:00AM Christopher Rod Barzal
4:00PM Helen & William Timmermans
5:30PM Pat Damato

Sunday, March 13

8:00AM Candida & Americo Molinini
9:15AM Ella Milo
10:30AM Anthony Sellitti
12 Noon Catherine Manetta
1:15PM Kitty Manetta
7:00PM Ronald Fay

Blessed Seraphina (Fina), Virgin - March 12

Serafina was born in the 13th century in Tuscany to poor parents. Despite poverty, she always saved half her food for the poor. At home she was a recluse; sewing, spinning and spending most nights in prayer. At a young age, after her father's death, Seraphina was stricken with a painful paralysis-to be more Christ-like, she asked to be placed on a plank where she was unable to move or turn. She often prayed, "It is not my wounds but yours, O Christ, that hurt me." Although not a nun, she followed the Benedictine way of life. After her mother's death, few wanted to help her because of the repulsive sores on her body. She prayed to St. Gregory the Great, who also suffered from disease. It is believed that Gregory revealed the day of her death in a vision. She died March 12, 1253. Many miracles were reported through her intercession. (JM)



Banns of Marriage

Second Time: Frank Porzio & Jaime Lyn Torres

Wedding Music Workshop

The next wedding music workshop for brides and grooms will be at 8:15PM (after the 7PM Mass) on Sun, Apr. 24. At this time, you will be able to select your wedding music. (Next workshop: June 26)

The Sanctuary Lamp for the
Week of March 6 - 12
Given in Memory of

Thomas J. Hoban

From Your Loving Wife, Nancy

Mass Minister Schedule

Lectors - Saturday, March 12

4:00PM E Vitiello
5:30PM C Losi

Eucharistic Ministers, March 12

4:00PM A Petrocelli, C Biondolillo, C Harris, J Uhlman,
V Caruso, & J Coscia

5:30PM F Ruggiero, B Weir, M Lappin, J Cimino, F Barone

Lectors - Sunday, March 13

8:00AM M Higgins
9:15AM J Zinsley
10:30AM M Pinto
12 Noon MA Higgins
1:15PM A Pompei
7:00PM K Melka

Eucharistic Ministers, March 13

8:00AM C Rosato, P Zoltowski, M Ennis, J Stanzione,
& J Perdichizzi

9:15AM M Sprague, Sr. Rosemary, L Capobianco, J Zinsley,
& J Gatto

10:30AM C Ordy, G Balestrino, L Appel, N Fallacaro, B Paccione,
& T Strange

12 Noon S Catalano, MA Russo, W Higgins, C Belvedere,
& C Bottiglia

1:15PM V Acri, F&R Marino, C Barone, B Nicholson

7:00PM A Zuffante, G LaGrúa, C Houle, S Caiazza, T Palmieri

Altar Server Schedule

Saturday, March 12

4:00 PM K Martino, V Pavlick, D Cavicchio
5:30 PM C, C, F & T Nieves

Sunday, March 13

8:00 AM N&J Mele, M Esposito
9:15 AM G Scarmato, M Coelho, S Marashaj
10:30 AM A Castelle, K Lee, G Gulotta
12:00 Noon B&M Stackhouse, C Carr
1:15 PM C Trang, G Marino, J Jacoby
7:00 PM J LoPiccolo, J Magnotti, J Rubin



Sincere Condolences

The Parish Family of Our Lady Star of the Sea offer
our sincere condolences to the families of:

**Joseph Dolcemascolo, Mary Jane Pisani,
Saverio DeFelice, Henry Foy, Gerard Winters**

Rite of Scrutiny This Sunday, our RCIA Elect (Afshin Shirazi) will celebrate the 2nd of 3 RCIA Scrutinies during the 10:30am mass. These rites are intended to help deliver the Elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, & to give them strength in Christ, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. These Rites of Scrutiny are meant to uncover, & then to heal, all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the Elects hearts and to bring out through repentance all that is upright, strong and good. These Scrutinies also remind the whole parish community of the need to reflect on their own sins and the need for God's help. We ask you to always keep our Elect and our Candidates in your prayers.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parish Family,

Father Eugene Fulton is the director of Trinity Retreat House in Larchmont, New York. He recently wrote the following understanding about mercy in an invitation for priest retreats:

"Mercy is the form love takes when it encounters those in need. It is first of all a form of love because it wants what is good for the one who is loved. Saint Thomas Aquinas points out that mercy is a God-like virtue, because it involves the strong showing pity to the weak. Particularly for the priest, mercy restores the essence of who a person is called to be. This is the gift of mercy – and it is rooted in profound respect of the other. God knows us as He intends us to be; His sons and daughters – His friends. When He knows us as sinners, and unable to secure our own deliverance from sins – He knows us as needing His mercy. His mercy reflects God's true judgment on us, as not being His undeserving poor, but His own beloved children. May your retreat be filled with powerful graces and every happiness, peace and blessings."
Quoting Pope Francis, *"At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's action in our lives"*.

During this past week on Tuesday, Pope Francis was preaching on the topic of Jesus' answer to the question, "How many times should I forgive, seven times?" And Jesus said "No, not seven times but seventy times seven times."

"Lent is a privileged time to prepare our hearts to receive God's forgiveness, and to show it to others, by forgetting their faults." According to Vatican Radio, Pope Francis stressed this during his daily morning Mass, as he discussed God's infinite capacity to forgive as perfection of his nature. Francis also pointed out how greatly this contrasts with the inability of fallen human nature to admit our own frailty. The Jesuit Pope drew inspiration from today's readings from the Gospel of Matthew in which Saint Peter asks Jesus how many times are we to forgive a brother who has sinned against us, and the Lord responds, seventy-seven times, which represents 'always'.

"Forgiving," the Pope stressed, "means opening our hearts so that God's mercy might come and forgive us, for, we all have need of pardon, need to ask for forgiveness." Stressing that we are to trust in God's mercy and goodness, Francis noted, "When God forgives, his forgiveness is so great that it is as through God forgets."

The Argentine Pontiff said this is "quite the opposite" of what we do, as 'we chatter': 'But so-and-so did such-and-such.' He stressed how much history we have of this and noted we do this because we don't have merciful hearts. Pope Francis invited those present to have mercy on others, so they shall feel God's mercy, who, when He forgives, He also forgets.

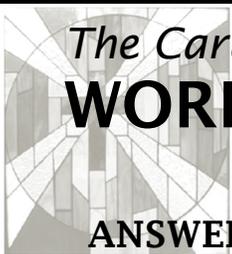
"In the 'Our Father,'" the Pope recalled, "we pray: 'forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.' It is an equation: the two sides go together. If you are able to forgive, how will God forgive you? He wants to forgive you, but He will not if you have closed hearts, where mercy cannot enter."

"But Father, if forgive, but I cannot forget the bad turn that so-and-so did to me..." Well, ask the Lord to help you forget." Francis also criticized when we people say, "I forgive you, but mean, "You'll pay me later". "This, never!" Francis said, "Forgive as the Lord forgives – to the utmost." The Holy Father reminded those gathered that heartfelt pardon, given and received, is always an act of Divine mercy.

Pope Francis concluded, saying "May Lent prepare our hearts to receive God's forgiveness – but let us receive it and then do the same with others: forgive heartily."

May we heed these words as we continue our Lenten journey,

Father Tom Devery



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the CARDINAL'S
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL
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ANSWER GOD'S CALL to serve our brothers and sisters who are less fortunate. In the *Beatitudes*, Jesus reminds us what it is to be a disciple of God, to act with mercy, compassion, and love.

Join in helping others during this **Year of Mercy**.

“ Blessed are those
who mourn, for they
shall be comforted.

—Matthew 5:4 ”

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LENT 2016

Fast & Abstinence: Good Friday, March 25th, is a day of fast & abstinence. The obligation of abstinence (refraining from eating meat) begins at the age of 14. The law of fasting (limiting oneself to one full meal and two lighter meals) obliges all between the ages of 19-59. The Fridays in Lent are obligatory days of abstinence from meat from 14 years onward.

Confessions: Confessions are heard every Saturday from 3:30 to 4PM and from 5 to 5:30 PM in the Church. The last confessions before Easter will be on Good Friday, March 25th from 12 NOON to 2PM.

Stations of the Cross: are held every Friday at 8PM during Lent. On Good Friday, March 25th, we will hold Meditation on the Passion of Jesus Christ in word and song through the Eyes of His Mother Mary at 8PM in the Church.

Lenten Love Offering: This weekend we invite you to pick up an offering box when you come to Church. Your contributions will help various service organizations, who assist the multiple needs of individuals and families. Thank you for your help in bringing hope to our sisters and brothers in need. **Please return your love offering boxes to the Church on the weekend of March 12 & 13, the weekend before Palm Sunday.**

Sick List



Carmella Beirne, Marguerite Bogda, Norma Bolanos, Michele Cali, Serafina Carlone, Margaret Carollo, Stephanie Cerchio, Ethel Cohen, Jay Coller, David Colon, Nanette Colon, Marian Concadora, Gen Decio, Anthony DeSousa, Jr., Chief Mstr. Sgt. James F. Dwyer, Thomas Eagers, Zeina Enciso, Barbara Foresti, Thomas Paul Gaither, Margaret Generoso, Herbert Gruberger, Matthew Hall, Rich Hogrogian, Thomas LaMantia, Lee Levantino, Peter J. Levantino, Bi Lian Lin, Paul Maros, Grace Miranda, Ralph Pagliuca, Ann Marie Pederson, Robert Petersen, Steven Puglisi, Rochelle Puglisi, Ralph Quezada, Carmen & John Ragona, Eva Ragona, Joanne Ruggerio, Caesar Russo, Jamie Seaman, Summer Marie Semerad, Edward Simas, Donna Slavine, Dora Valiente, Lisa Vasquez. **Please Note: If you would like to place a name on the sick list, please call and leave the name with the rectory.**

Healing Service

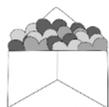
There will be a Healing Service on **Tues, March 15 @ 3:30 pm**. Anyone in need of spiritual, emotional, or physical healing is welcome. *(The next Healing Mass will be April 5 at 7:30 pm)*

OLSS Dolphin Summer Day Camp



The OLSS Dolphin Summer Day Camp will run weekdays from July 5 through August 19, 2016 from 9 am – 3:30 pm with extended hours available at an additional rate. Early Bird Registration will be held on **Sunday, March 6 from 10 am – 2 pm** in the OLSS Gym Lobby. The Early Bird Pricing Special will run from March 6-April 3 (must be paid in full by April 18 to qualify). Activities include arts & crafts, dance, computers, soccer, organized games and more! Bring your own lunch and snack. Campers must be entering PreK4 through 8th Grade as of September 2016. For more information, email Ms. Linda Fusillo, Camp Director at linsoap@aol.com.

Share In Our Students' Success!



Next week's second collection will go to "Share in our Students' Success." Any contributions donated through this envelope will go into a scholarship fund for OLSS school students who might otherwise not be able to afford a Catholic education. God bless you for your generosity.

SCHOOL NEWS

- **Robotics** - On Wed., February 24, 8th grade students participated in a robotics competition held at St. Joseph by-the-Sea High School. OLSS Team Dolphinator competed against 10 other teams from various Archdiocesan elementary schools. Twenty-six team members held different key roles on the team including robot building, programming, research, and team spirit supporters. It is with great pride that we announce Team Dolphinator was awarded the very special Team Commitment Trophy! Perhaps more important than any award, the students of OLSS showed an incredible level of good sportsmanship, team work, effort, school spirit, and support for all the other teams participating! The administration and teachers of OLSS School thank the students and parents for their dedication to our school activities, and we applaud our 8th grade students who worked diligently for several months on this endeavor.
- **Touring Tuesday** – Please join us on Tues., March 8, to see all the great things that are happening at Our Lady Star of the Sea School. Prospective parents are invited to tour our school and see OLSS in action from 9-11am. We look forward to seeing you!
- **Success!** – Thanks to our Fashion Show chairs, Marilee Amodio and Christine Rabenna, our fashion show was a great success! We appreciate all the time and effort you and your committee chair women put forth to make this a wonderful evening for the 8th graders, their parents, and all who attended the event.



SPORTS NEWS

SOCCER REGISTRATION



FINAL Open Soccer Registration will be held at the OLSS Athletic Center from **6:00 to 7:00PM** on **Monday, March 14** for all players which include Pee Wee, 3 year olds, and SIYLS players. Registration fees are \$200 for SIYSL players and \$150 for Pee Wee, 3 yr. olds and siblings. Visit the website www.olsssoccer.com for registration forms and more details. Registrations may also be dropped off at any time at the OLSS rectory. **PLEASE NOTE:** If you registered in the fall you do NOT need to register again in the spring. Tentative season opening weekend April 2.

BASKETBALL CLINICS

OLSS is proud to announce that we will be holding clinics for pre-k 4, Kindergarten and Grades 1 & 2 boys and girls. All info is available on the web site at olssbasketball.com. There will be a clinic for 3rd, 4th and 5th grade boys and girls as well. Please print the registrations off of the website and return them as soon as possible. Dates and times for registration are listed on the forms.



IWORK SPORTS BASKETBALL CLINICS

Open to grades 3-12. There are several slots for younger players and high school players. This 6-week clinic is run by iWork and will take place Monday nights at OLSS. For more info, see the website: www.istar-sports.com.



CYO VARSITY BASEBALL

We are still looking for 2-3 players to round out our Varsity Boys Baseball Team. (7th or 8th grade boys) Please contact Dennis Della Valle through olssbaseballsoftball.com or Mia at 718-710-7161 ASAP to get the players added to the roster.

TRACK AND FIELD

Boys and Girls in grades Pre-K 4 through 8th grade are welcome to join the OLSS Track & Field Team. No experience necessary. Fee is \$100 for the season. For more info, contact Erin Ryan at tmm4e@verizon.net.

Saturday of Mercy with Cardinal Dolan
Saturday, March 12, 2016
Our Lady of Pity Church
1616 Richmond Ave, SI, NY 10314

On **Saturday, March 12**, Cardinal Dolan will be coming to Our Lady of Pity Church for a Saturday of Mercy. There will be a talk on mercy, personal testimonies about the corporal works of mercy, a video about the Year of Mercy, recitation of the Divine Mercy chaplet and an opportunity for confession. Cardinal Dolan will conclude the day by celebrating the 5 PM Mass. A reception with light refreshments will follow. ALL are welcome to attend and no registration is required.

Agenda for Saturday of Mercy

- 2:30 pm Welcome & Opening Prayer
- 2:40 pm Cardinal's Conference
- 3:10 pm Examination of Conscience & Confessions
- 3:30 pm-4 pm Testimonies & Missionary of Mercy
- 4 pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy & Rosary
- 4:35 Benediction & Preparation for Mass
- 5 pm Mass

Group Meetings

50 Plus Club – Meets in the Damato Meeting Room in the OLSS Athletic Center on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month from 1-3 p.m. The next meeting will be on **March 11**. For more information, call Terry at 718-317-1801.

Bereavement Group – The next meeting of the Bereavement Group will be on **Wed., March 9 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Rectory. If you would like to join or would like more information, please call the Rectory at 984-0593 and leave your name and number.

Book Club - The next meeting of the OLSS book club will be **Thursday, April 7th at 7:30 PM** in the rectory and new members are always welcome. Our next selection is Consuming the Word-The New Testament and the Eucharist in the Early Church by Dr. Scott Hahn. For more information, please contact Kathy Melka at 917-696-7081.

Holy Name Society - The next meeting for the OLSS Holy Name Society Men's Club will be on **Thursday, March 10th at 8 PM** in the Damato Meeting Room of the Athletic Center. For more information please call Chairmen Robert Cermeli at 917-783-6494 or Peter Cappellino at 917-626-7757.

Prayer Group – Group meets on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7:30p.m. in the Rectory.

Adult Faith Formation-Would you like to explore the Catholic Church and the faith of Catholic Christianity? Are you interested in becoming a full member of the Catholic Church? Were you baptized Catholic as a child, but have not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist? If so, then RCIA is for you. RCIA is a journey of exploration and initiation into the Catholic Church. RCIA is a fun, safe, faith-building discovery of Jesus Christ and the Church he loves. RCIA will change your life. It will bring you closer to Jesus. Is God calling you now? Are you ready to take that step in faith? The Catholic Church welcomes you. For information please contact Joe Limeri – jlimeri@aol.com – 347-541-9757 or call the Parish Office.

OLSS 50+ Club Trip to Sands Casino

The 50+ Club of OLSS will be taking a bus trip to the Sands Casino in Bethlehem, PA on **Friday, March 18**. The bus will be leaving the parking lot at 9am. The cost is \$42 per person, and each person will receive back \$25 in play and \$5 for food. Please contact Terry at 718-317-1801.

Certified Catechist Needed - Adult RCIA Program

The RCIA Program at OLSS has expanded so that it can meet the needs of our parish community. We are in need of an additional catechist who can lend a hand and assist our core team with the program. If you are an experienced certified catechist and would like to be considered for this wonderful ministry, please contact Joe Limeri at 347-541-9757.

OLSS Baptism Preparation Policy

Please reference the front bulletin cover for details on the Baptism Preparation Policy. All parish families preparing for the Baptism of their child must attend the OLSS Baptismal Class. Please contact the Rectory Mon-Fri 9-4:30 to obtain a Baptism Registration Packet.



Baptismal Class & Ceremony Dates

March 13, April 10 & 24
May 8 & 22

PLEASE NOTE: Baptisms in June, July & August will take place EVERY Sunday at 1:15 pm.

Sponsor Certificates

Certificates attesting to the fact that a parishioner is a practicing Catholic are often required when they are asked to sponsor someone at the time of Baptism or Confirmation. These certificates may be obtained only **AFTER** the Masses on Saturday evening or Sunday. The **PERSON REQUIRING THE CERTIFICATE MUST** see the priest **AFTER ATTENDING THE MASS** to request one.

Visit Senator Andrew Lanza's Office to Receive Assistance with Heat & Energy Bills

Staten Island residents may qualify to receive assistance with their heat & energy bills this winter through the HEAP program. The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally funded program that issues heating benefits to supplement a household's annual energy costs. HEAP also offers an emergency benefit for households in a heat-related energy emergency. Senator Lanza's district office, which is located in Eltingville at 3845 Richmond Avenue, Suite 2A, will serve as an intake office for the HEAP program. A representative will be available to assist you in the completion and processing of your application. There will be a representative from HEAP in the office every Thursday from 9am - 3pm until the program ceases. The Neighborhood Heating Fund (Heartshare) was developed to help low-income families and individuals with elevated heating bills meet their monthly payments. Eligible recipients can receive up to \$200 depending on the amount of their bill. Once funding is depleted the program will cease for the season.

Cluster Corner

Cluster Parish Mass Times

Our Lady Help of Christians – 7396 Amboy Rd.
Sat. 4:30 PM Family Mass; Sun. 8 AM, 9:30 AM Family Mass, 11 AM, 12:30 PM, 4 PM (Spanish) & 6:30 PM Weekday Masses Mon. thru Sat. 9 AM

St. John Neumann - 1380 Arthur Kill Rd.
Sat. 5 PM; Sun. 8 AM, 9:30 AM, 11 AM and 12:30 PM Weekday Masses Mon. thru Sat. 9 AM in Rectory Chapel

St. Thomas the Apostle - 6123 Amboy Rd.
Sat. 6 PM, Sun. 9 AM, 10 AM (Italian), 11 AM, 1 PM, & 6 PM Weekday Masses Mon. thru Fri. 7 & 8 AM, Sat. 8 AM

Church of St. Joseph - 16 Poplar Ave.
Sat. 5 PM; Sun. 8 AM, 10 AM, & 12 PM Weekday Masses Mon. thru Sat. 9 AM

Cluster Events

St. John Neumann - Prayers, Pancakes & Pajamas Event! Wear your favorite PJ's & enjoy breakfast, fun activities & crafts with SJN KidzKlub. Date: March 19, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Where: Rectory Basement, SJN Church. \$8 per preregistered child/\$10 at the door. Please call SJN rectory, (718) 984-8535, by March 12th.

