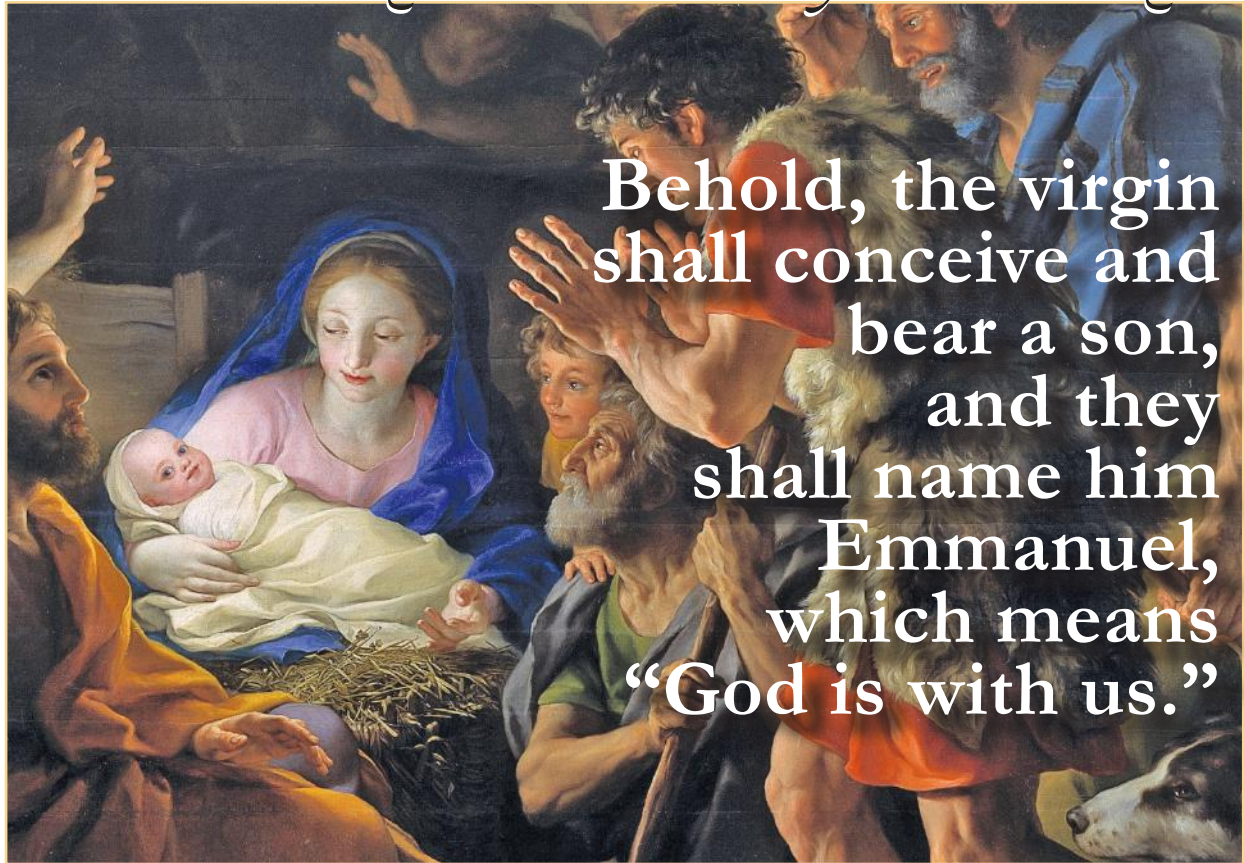


December 24, 2023 -Fourth Sunday of Advent

# Our Lady Queen of Martyrs



Adoration of the Shepherds 1770, Anton Raphael Mengs

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."

Very Rev. Francis J. Passenant, V.F. — PASTOR  
Most Rev. Paul R. Sanchez, D.D. — PASTOR EMERITUS  
Rev. Antonin Kocurek — PAROCHIAL VICAR

## Christmas and New Year Masses

### CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24

*Masses are on the regular weekend schedule for the Fourth Sunday of Advent*

5 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass

9 p.m. Christmas Carols followed by Christmas Mass at Night

### CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, December 25

9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. (Choir) & 1 p.m.

### NEW YEAR'S DAY

Monday, January 1, 2024

Feast of Mary, the Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

10 a.m. & 12:05 p.m.

*The 12:05 p.m. Mass on New Year's Day will be celebrated for the intentions of those memorialized with*

*Christmas wreaths, trees, poinsettias and the donors to the Christmas flower fund.*



110 - 06 Queens Boulevard  
Forest Hills, New York 11375  
tel 718-268-6251; fax 718-793-2584  
rectoryolqm@aol.com | ourladyqueenofmartyrs.org  
OLQM Catholic Academy: tel 718-263-2622



### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Tuesday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Wednesday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
(closed for lunch from noon to 1 p.m.)  
Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. No office hours Sundays

## Masses for the Week

*Saturday, December 23*

**Saint John of Kanty**

8:05 a.m. Sonia Orbegoso

12:05 p.m. Ignazia and Matteo Orlando

5 p.m. Stanley and Halina Daniszewski

*Sunday, December 24*

9 a.m. Family Mass celebrated for the parishioners of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs

*Children's Liturgy of the Word*

### CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY

5 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass

9 p.m. Christmas Carols followed by Christmas Mass at Night

*Monday, December 25*

**The Nativity of Our Lord**

Masses at 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. (Choir), 1 p.m.

*Tuesday, December 26*

**Saint Stephen**

8:05 a.m. Eloisa Garcia and Marco A. Sanchez

12:05 p.m. Sister Gertrude Coleman and Sister Elizabeth White

*Wednesday, December 27*

**Saint John**

8:05 a.m. Joseph Cardenas

12:05 p.m. The Vivona family [living]

*Thursday, December 28*

**The Holy Innocents**

8:05 a.m. Annabella and Louis Sorsaia

12:05 p.m. Kathleen Farrell

*Friday, December 29*

**Saint Thomas Becket**

8:05 a.m. James Joseph Chin

12:05 p.m. Edward Habert

*Saturday, December 30*

8:05 a.m. Lourdes Madarang

12:05 p.m. Serafin Fule

5 p.m. Connie Calero

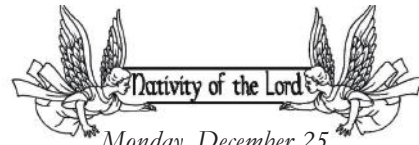
## Main Events of the Week

*Sunday, December 24*

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

10 a.m. rectory meeting room: Sunday Morning Bible Study

*Christmas Masses are listed in the column at the left*



*Monday, December 25*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

*Tuesday, December 26*

Masses at 8:05 a.m. and 12:05 p.m. No Confessions

Rectory offices will be closed

No Choir Rehearsal

*(Choir rehearsal resumes Tuesday, January 9, at 7:30 p.m.)*

*Wednesday, December 27*

**Religious Education Christmas Break**

*(Classes resume Wednesday, January 3)*

7:45–9 p.m. Zoom: Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group

*Thursday, December 28*

11 a.m. church: WEDDING

Shela Misha Hawking/Justin Y. Chan

11:30 a.m. church: Confessions

After 12:05 p.m. Mass

**Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

*(Evening Benediction returns February 15, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.)*

*Saturday, December 30*

12:45 p.m. church: Christmas Confessions

**The Wine and Hosts**

are offered in loving memory of

**Robert Peter Ballerini**

—requested by Audrey & Robert D. Ballerini

## Remember Our Sick

Victoria Bagasan, Raymond Bajarias, Grace Banks, Robert Battista, Donald Begota, Viola Binua, Taylor Calder, Jorge A. Castillo Lepe, Antonio Cordova, Elizabeth Cordova, Cely de Borja, Sister Ann Barbara De Siano IHM, Norman Doucette, Baby Luka Dudashvili, Alvaro Fuentes Leal, Domingo Galicia, Stephen Gavosto, Lucille Giannone, Jorge Guzman, Anne Hansen, Miriya Healing, Jo-Ann Henry, Ruth Henry, Anita Hsu, Mary Hughes, Tommy Jorge, Cipriana Jorge, Elizabeth Ann Jiyun Kim, Elaine M. Kuzlik, Elyse Locurto, Marites Macapagal, Lillian MacColl, Daniel McCarthy, Nellie Milite, Matilde Munoz, Karen Nassauer, Peter Nicoliois, Jorge Ospina, Antonio Pellegrino, Amelia Perdomo, Richard Perl, Dennis Portelli, Jovanka Radeka, Maria Rodin, Ariana Rose, Dr. Anthony Sarro, Terrence and MaryAnna Scudieri, Alice Singh, Robert Sorsaia, Rose Tibayan, Lineth Vaz, Carlos Eduardo Villegas, Graciela Guzman Villegas, Stanislaw Wolk, Giovanni Wong, Teresa Wong, Jennifer Yamamoto, Julio Enrico Yanez, Deacon Elias Yepes, Sandra Zalbe—and all parishioners currently in nursing homes, hospitals or confined to their homes

## Remember Our Deceased

Rev. Msgr. John F. Casey

Eucebia Flores

Martin Jimenez



Deacon James Ramos

Peter Shaver

**We pray for the men and women of our Armed Forces serving in the U.S. and abroad**

Eric Böhm, Sergio Borrero, Thaddeus Buenaventura, Ricardo Cantillo, Bobby DiTroia, Armando Fellin, Andrew Gonzalez, A. Jay James, William (Will) Klos, Michael Le Floch, Louis Mannino, Gabriella Mattson, Justin Pabse, Rodney Ross, McNeely Royal, Jose J. Vaz, Mollie Rae Whitley, William Youssef, Phillip Whitley. **Please pray for all who risk their lives for our safety, including police, fire, corrections, and military personnel.**

## This Week's Reflection

from Catholic Teaching

### The Heart of the Infant Jesus

*"There is in the Sacred Heart the symbol and express image of the infinite love of Jesus Christ which moves us to love in return."*  
(Pope Leo XIII)

**REFLECT:** The catechism, echoing John 3:16, notes that "the Word became flesh so that we might know God's love...so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." But why come as an infant, and in such humble circumstances? "Surely if He had so willed it," wrote St. Chrysologus, "He might have come moving the heavens, making the earth to shake, and shooting forth his thunderbolts; but such was not the way of His going forth."

Pope Benedict notes that God poured himself out for us "recklessly" in his Incarnation. The "Heart of Jesus is not concerned with self-preservation but with self-surrender." In the Incarnation, God does something that He could not have done apart from the incarnation. He comes to us as an infant, helpless and dependent, trusting in the care of Mary and Joseph for his very survival.

"God's sign is simplicity," writes Benedict. "God's sign is the baby. God's sign is that he makes himself small for us. This is how he reigns. He does not come with power and outward splendor. He comes as a baby.... He does not want to overwhelm us with his strength. He takes away our fear of his greatness. He asks for our love: so he makes himself a child.... God made himself small so that we could understand him, welcome him, and love him."

"It is no magic formula he brings," writes St. Josemaria, "because he knows that the salvation he offers must pass through human hearts. What does he first do? He laughs and cries and sleeps, as a helpless baby, although he is God incarnate. And he does this so that we may fall in love with him, so that we may learn to take him in our arms."

**ACT:** Open your heart to Jesus this Christmas.

**LEARN:** Read Pope Benedict XVI's 2006 Christmas homily, at <https://tinyurl.com/ycx4yvvn>. Read Cardinal Ratzinger's book *Behold the Pierced One: An Approach to a Spiritual Christology*, available at your favorite bookstore. Read St. Josemaria's sermon on the Epiphany of Our Lord, at <https://tinyurl.com/44vk4xfa>.

**BE AN INFORMED CITIZEN.** To learn more about legislative issues that affect us as Catholics and how you can express your opinions to our elected officials, we encourage you to sign up for "Action Alerts" from the NY State Catholic Conference. [www.nyscatholic.org/nys-catholic-conference-action-center](http://www.nyscatholic.org/nys-catholic-conference-action-center)

## Order of Mass

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Cycle A—Choir Mass 11:15 a.m.*

#### ENTRANCE

*Missal #43—"People, Look East"*

**MASS PARTS:** A Community Mass (*Proulx*)

#### FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*

#### SECOND READING

Romans 16:25-27

#### GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

#### HOMILY

#### OFFERTORY

*"Ave Maria" (Gregorian Chant)—Choir*  
*Missal #826—"Luke 1: Magnificat"*

#### COMMUNION

*"The Angel Gabriel" (Basque carol arr: M. Archer)—Choir*  
Organ Meditation  
*Missal #51—"Waiting in Silence"*

#### CLOSING HYMN

*Missal #39—"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

**11:15 A.M. SUNDAY MASS LIVESTREAM**

[ourladyqueenofmartyrs.org/webcast](http://ourladyqueenofmartyrs.org/webcast)

## Second Collections

- » Today's second collection is for Christmas Music and Liturgy. There is also an envelope for the annual Christmas Day Collection for Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens.
- » On December 31, the second collection is for snow removal.
- » At any time, use the special envelope to contribute to the Parish Endowment Fund ([ourladyqueenofmartyrs.org/blue-envelope](http://ourladyqueenofmartyrs.org/blue-envelope)). If using the Parish Giving portal online, select Blue Envelope from the pull-down menu.
- » For Parish Giving technical support, call 866-307-7140, Mon–Fri, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**WELCOME!** Sound-enhancing assistive listening device is available if you have trouble hearing during Mass. Visit the sacristy for information. If a disability makes it difficult for you to fully participate at Mass or other activities of our parish, contact our Parish Advocate for Persons with Disabilities, Karen Mongiello, at [disabilities.olqm@gmail.com](mailto:disabilities.olqm@gmail.com), to make your special needs known.

# 2023 Christmas Memorial Wreaths, Trees & Flowers

*This list reflects memorials received as of December 15. The 12:05 p.m. Mass on New Year's Day will be celebrated for their intentions and the donors to the Christmas Flowers fund. Thank you all for your generous gifts! — Father Passenant*



## **LARGE WREATHS in the Sanctuary**

In memory of the DeGennaro, Wellbrock, Peterson families by Douglas and Grace Wellbrock

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Jean-Charles Milord and Ms. Jane Paul by Dr. Fabiola Milord, DDS

## **LARGE WREATH outside over Main Door of Church**

In memory of Frank and Josephine Giattino and Adam and Josephine Soja by Josephine and Richard Giattino

## **LARGE WREATHS outside over Side Doors of Church**

In memory of Raphael F. Longobardi by JoAnn M. Longobardi

In memory of the Howard Siegel by JoAnn M. Longobardi

In memory of Thomas Trott by Richard Vollkommer

Gift of Mr. & Mrs. David Rosa and family (Foodtown Supermarket Corp., Forest Hills)

## **WREATH on the Choir Loft**

In memory of Yan and Lui Eng by Eddy Eng

## **Two LARGE TREES in Sanctuary**

In memory of Edward T. Caswell, Jr. by Dana L. McDougall

## **GARLANDS over Sanctuary and Choir Loft; WREATH on Pulpit**

In memory of the deceased of the Wright, McGrath, and McCarthy families by Veronica McCarthy

## **CHRISTMAS TREES indoor around Manger Scene**

In memory of Robert Peter Ballerini by Audrey Ballerini and Robert D. Ballerini

## **WREATHS outside around the Rectory**

In memory of the McNelis and Vasile families by Carol McNelis

In memory of Mrs. Yok Ping Hung by Biu Hung

In memory of Mr. She Hung by Biu Hung

In memory of Mrs. Sook Ting Ko by Biu Hung

In memory of Rocco, Norma, and Diana Napoli by Gerry Napoli

In memory of Theresina Leung by Cecilia Leung

In memory of deceased family members by Mary S. Mui

Gift of Ester Riveros

## **PINE TEARDROP SWAGS on Church Poles**

In memory of Dolores, Irving, and Mary Kotin and Lillian Neumann by Belinda Kotin

In memory of Marie D. Cassidy and Andrew F. Cassidy by Carole M. Cassidy

In memory of Carmen Rodriguez by Melissa Rivera Torres

In memory of Osvaldo Torres by Melissa Rivera Torres

In memory of Angela McNelis Szablewski (10th anniversary)

by Carol McNelis

In memory of Jeanette and Issac Faighes by Regina Faighes

In memory of Theresa and Sebastian Bartolotto by Maryann Bartolotto

In memory of the Martucci, Mandala, and Clemente families by Constance Martucci

In memory of the Angotti, Kelly, and Mauro family members by Vincenza Kelly

In memory of Olga DeNapoli by Anne and Anthony Curcio

In memory of Antoinette and Vincent Curcio by Anne and Anthony Curcio

In memory of DeNapoli family by Anne and Anthony Curcio

In memory of Joseph Cardenas by Alicia Cardenas

## **CHRISTMAS TREES outside around Manger Scene**

In memory of Peter and Philomena O'Brien by Marie O'Brien Davis

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence E. Marmion, Sr. by Lawrence and Beatrice Marmion

In memory of Celina Cavalier by niece, Jusette Lubin Meaney

In memory of Dominick Nikolich and Mary and Frank Schembri by Joan Nikolich

In memory of deceased relatives by Noila Johnson

## **WREATH on the Rectory Front Door**

In memory of Wayne Baxter by the Baxter family (Fox Funeral Home)

## **POINSETTIA PLANTS**

In memory of William, Patricia, and Joseph Hannafin by Adaleza/Michelena Teaghan Hannafin

In memory of living and deceased family members by Noila Johnson

In memory of Kevin Hurley and Joseph Della Marco by Iris and Rosemary Della Marco

In memory of deceased members of the Hurley, Johnstone, and Della Marco families by Iris and Rosemary Della Marco

In memory of Marion and Francis Gaughan by Maryan, Frank, and Nora Jane Gaughan and Alison Perry

In memory of the deceased of the Rectory Staff by the Priests

In memory of Anna Squillante by Alberta Squillante

In memory of Rose Ward and Jack McDonough

In memory of Anton and Marija Feretic and Anthony Feretic

In memory of Mary Newman by a Friend

In memory of Blanche Appelli

In memory Mary Petrocelli

*(cont'd on page 4)*

## Christmas Memorials *cont'd from page 4*

### **VENDOR-BUSINESS CHRISTMAS TREE** by *St. Joseph's Altar*

#### *Angel Top*

Fox Funeral Home, Inc., Forest Hills  
Leo. F. Kearns Funeral Home, Rego Park  
D'Ambrosio Art Studio, Mt. Kisco  
J.C. National AC Corp., Flushing  
Forest Hills Agency – ALLSTATE, Forest Hills  
5 Burro Café, Forest Hills

#### *Tree Ornament*

PC Concrete Corp, Maspeth, N.Y.  
Edward Torres, CPA, PC, Forest Hills  
C TOWN, 63rd Dr., Rego Park  
R. J. Wellbrock Plumbing, Forest Hills

#### *Light Bulb*

NY Digital Print Center, Whitestone  
Lunar IT Consulting, Forest Hills  
Mike's Floor Covering, Brooklyn  
Ridgewood Savings Bank, Forest Hills  
S. S. Naturals, Forest Hills  
Ranshaw Plumbing and Heating Co., Whitestone  
Father and Son Florist, Commack, L.I.  
Paladino Printing, Bayside  
Equestrian House, Pleasant Mount, PA

## Dear Parishioners, Merry Christmas



The birth of Jesus—God dwelling among us—gave our fallen and sinful world the hope of redemption. It is a time for us to recognize God's goodness to His beloved people. He came among us, shared our human condition, and gave Himself to us without reserve.

May this be a special time for your family and for our parish family! Let our concern for the poor be in appreciation of the many gifts we have received. And may the glow of the Nativity Star radiate in our hearts long after our celebration is over.

God bless!

Very Rev. Francis J. Passenant, V.F., Pastor  
Most Rev. Paul R. Sanchez, D.D., Pastor Emeritus  
Rev. Antonin Kocurek, Parochial Vicar

## The Nativity Crèche Tradition

Precisely eight centuries ago, in 1223, St. Francis of Assisi created the first Nativity scene. Wanting to underscore the humble circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus and kindle a deeper reverence for the Christmas narrative among the local populace, St. Francis ingeniously staged a live Nativity scene in a cave in the Italian village of Greccio. This extraordinary spectacle, also known as a crèche (from Old French for crib), featured live animals and a manger strewn with hay as a vivid reenactment of the sacred birth of Jesus as chronicled in the Gospels. Thus, began a tradition that has spread around the world, with Nativity scenes now adorning Christmas celebrations everywhere. Whether the Nativity scene is in St. Peter's Square in Rome, in this church, or in your home, it beckons you to reflect on Jesus' birth two millennia ago and express grateful wonder.

### Weekly Collections & Year-End Giving

The collection figures for Sunday, Dec 17, will appear in next week's bulletin. If you have been blessed with a year-end bonus or are able to make an additional contribution, we kindly ask you to consider supporting our parish. Gifts made before Dec 31 are eligible for tax deductions, which maximizes the impact of your generosity. You may use the envelope marked "Christmas Gift to My Church" or the Parish Giving option on our website.

## LET EVERY HEART PREPARE

### Contact Us

#### PHONE AND EMAIL

Rectory Office:  
718-268-6251  
**NEW:** rectory@olqmchurch.org

Emergency (last rites):  
718-810-9788 (after office hours)

OLQM Catholic Academy:  
718-263-2622  
info@olqmca.org

Religious Education Office:  
718-263-0907  
olqmreled@gmail.com

RCIA Office:  
718-268-6251, ext. \*827  
olqmrcia@gmail.com

OLQM Charity Outreach:  
718-268-6251, ext. \*843

#### ADDITIONAL EMAIL

Administrator's Office:  
admn.olqm@yahoo.com

Baptisms:  
baptismprep@olqmchurch.org

Bereavement Support:  
bereave@olqmchurch.org

Bulletin Subjects:  
olqmcomm@olqmchurch.org

Disabilities Advocate:  
disabilities.olqm@gmail.com

MAYO (Youth Organization):  
youth@olqmchurch.org

Pastoral Care Office:  
dfport@gmail.com

**FIND US ONLINE**  
ourladyqueenofmartyrs.org

Facebook, Instagram, X/Twitter:  
@OLQMChurch

YouTube:  
@OLQMStewardship

OLQM Catholic Academy:  
www.olqmca.org

#### LIVESTREAM MASS

Sunday @ 11:15AM. Available in its entirety on demand using the "past livestreams" link at [ourladyqueenofmartyrs.org/webcast](http://ourladyqueenofmartyrs.org/webcast)



## Annual Christmas Day Collection for Catholic Charities

Pope Francis said: "Blessed are the open hands that embrace the poor and help them; they are the hands that bring hope."

Each year on Christmas Day, we ask that you extend a hand to your neighbors by making a generous gift to Catholic Charities to assist them in their work. Catholic Charities of Brooklyn and Queens brings hope to the poor daily—helping the homeless seeking food and shelter, individuals and families struggling with addiction or mental illness, young families in need of early childhood services, and seniors confronting loneliness and depression and with affordable housing worries.

Please use the special envelope to give to the Catholic Charities Christmas Day Collection. You will be helping to make all the difference in the world to someone. May the Lord bless your generosity with the peace and joy of Christmas.



## RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

If you are 18 years of age or older and interested in becoming Catholic, or if you need to complete your Sacraments of Initiation, RCIA is the answer to your prayers. RCIA guides you through the process of discernment, prayer, and education. Contact [olqmrca@gmail.com](mailto:olqmrca@gmail.com) or call 718-268-6251, ext. 27, and leave a message (including a callback number). All emails and calls will receive a response.

PLEASE FULFILL ALL  
ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL PLEDGES  
BY DECEMBER 31. THANK YOU.



## Faith Sharing Groups at OLQM

Are you looking to explore the Bible with others? Join a parish faith-sharing group.

Meetings resume in January!

**Sunday Morning Bible Study: 10–11 a.m.** Meets in-person in the rectory basement meeting room (use glass door behind the Mary statue). Current study is St. Luke's Gospel. Contact Noila Johnson: [noilas@hotmail.com](mailto:noilas@hotmail.com).

**Monday "Through the Word" Bible Study: 7–8 p.m.** Current study topic is the Eucharist. To join on Zoom, contact [josephterry@gmail.com](mailto:josephterry@gmail.com). Archived recordings of the weekly bible studies can be viewed on demand at [www.YouTube.com/@bktheologian](http://www.YouTube.com/@bktheologian).

**Wednesday Catholic Charismatic Prayer: 7:45–9 p.m.** Weekly Zoom prayer meetings with bible study on the 3rd Wednesday. Join to pray together and for one another. Learn how God's word is alive and relevant in our daily lives. Meeting ID: 2917352357 (PW: 031011).

## FREE Movie Screening of Sound of Freedom

We invite you to join us when we hold two screenings of the movie Sound of Freedom on these dates and times:

- Thursday, January 11 after the 12:05 p.m. Mass
- Sunday, January 14 after the 1 p.m. Mass

This film is being shown during Human Trafficking Prevention Month to raise awareness about the harrowing reality of human trafficking and efforts to combat it. The movie is rated PG 13 and may not be suitable for young children.

## Car Donations for Charity

Associated Vincentian Charities (formerly St. Vincent de Paul Society) will give back **\$100/\$200** to Our Lady Queen of Martyrs for each donated car, truck, or van (any condition, running or not). If you or a family member, friend, or neighbor have an old or neglected vehicle to dispose of, call **718-491-2525**. Free towing available; IRS tax-deductible. [SVDPAuto-BrooklynQueens.org](http://SVDPAuto-BrooklynQueens.org) has more information.

# A Blessed Christmas Season and New Year to All