

**St. Mary Roman Catholic Church**  
**10-08 49th Avenue**  
**Long Island City, NY 11101**  
**Hours: Mon-Fri 9 to 12, 1 to 5pm**  
**718-786-0705**  
**Email: stmarylic1008@gmail.com**  
**Website: stmary-lic.org**

**St. Joseph Center/Religious Education**  
**10-15 49th Avenue**  
**Long Island City, NY 11101**  
**917-832-6104**  
**Email: dre.stmarylic@gmail.com**

### Parish Staff

**Pastor**

Rev. Christopher J. Turczany

**Director of Music**

Dr. Justin Bischof

**Director of Religious Education**

Giovanna Varlese

**Assistant Director of Religious**

Lisete Afonso

**Director of Maintenance**

Ray Rychalski

**Administrative Assistant**

Marie Gabrielle Diharce

### Schedule of Masses

**Masses:**

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 9:30 am and 12:00 pm

Monday-Thursday: 12:15 pm

**National Holidays:** Mass at 9:00 am

**Confessions:** Saturday 4:00 pm to 4:40 pm

**Anointing of the Sick:** First Saturday of the month at the 5:00 pm evening Mass.



## April 7, 2024 Second Sunday of Easter

### **RCI Program:**

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic, or are you a baptized Catholic seeking to complete the Sacraments Initiation?

For an application or any questions, please send an email to [dre.stmarylic@gmail.com](mailto:dre.stmarylic@gmail.com)

or call 917-832-6104.

### **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:**

Wednesday 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

### **Baptism:**

4th Saturday of the month at 1:00 pm. For courtesy please arrive fifteen minutes earlier.

Please call the Rectory for an appointment with the Pastor.

### **Weddings:**

Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance in prior to the wedding date. Please call the Rectory for an appointment with the Pastor. All couples are required to attend the online Pre-Cana and present the certificate when completed.

**Funerals:** Monday through Saturday

**April 7, 2024**  
**Second Easter Sunday**

Still basking in the Glory of Easter, today we celebrate God's unparalleled mercy. Out of mercy for all of us, Jesus died on the cross, atoning for our sins, past, present, and future. Out of mercy for those whose faith is weak or doubt is strong, Jesus comes to reassure us of his eternal presence. Out of mercy for those who cannot see him, Jesus blesses them in their faith. This Easter season, let us rejoice, for the risen Lord is in our midst, forever bestowing God's divine mercy upon us.



**Intentions For the Week**

**Saturday, April 6, 2024**

5:00 pm Harold O'Leary  
Anna O'Leary

**Sunday, April 7, 2024**

9:30 am Genevieve and James Roeder

12:00pm All Living and deceased members  
of Maria Addolorata  
Society, Family and friends  
Rocco DiGiorgio, Antonio DiGiorgio  
And Benny DiGiorgio

**Monday, April 8, 2024**

12:15pm Mary Mazza

**Tuesday, April 9, 2024**

12:15pm Kathleen Ward

**Wednesday, April 10, 2024**

11:00am Blessed Sacrament

12:15pm Danielle Sileo Marsh

**Thursday April 11, 2024**

12:15pm Louis Durante

**Friday, April 12, 2024**

No MASS

**Saturday, April 13, 2024**

5:00 pm Michelina  
and Antonio Cavaliere

**Statistics March 30, 2024 and March 31, 2024**

3/30-5:00 pm 105

3/31-9:30 am 295

3/31-12:00 pm 337

**Total Count 737**

1st Collection \$6,278

2nd Collection \$1,871

**Pray for the sick,**

Jean Willison, Michelle Yashita, Pat Gamble, Camille Sollis, Maria Vessillo, Teresa Ortiz, Joe Sullivan, Martha Catel, Jimmy O'Neil, Robert Keegan, Joan Pacheco, Madelaine Sullivan, Mary Roedner, Moussa Traore, Rosanna Lara Lugo

**Pray for the Deceased**

Joseph Vessillo  
Christopher A. Polizzi, Nicholas Correa,  
Ines Cano, Sal Caiaccia, Emily Loiaco-  
no, William F. Marsh, Antonio Natale,  
Antonio Magri, Stella Bonilla, Albert  
Setford, Rosa D'Amato

**Purgatorial Intentions**

Anthony DeFelica, Evarito Sipin, Frank Carrado,  
Yolanda Sipin, Genevieve Roeder, Pasqual Cafiero,  
Robert Rohan, Tommaso Valese, Leonardo Anto-  
nio, Donna Vova, Vincenza Rios, Mildred  
Schifano

**Join us in Indianapolis!**

**Diocese of Brooklyn**

**July 17-21, 2024**

**Diocesan Pilgrimage Led by Bishop Robert Brennan**



**NATIONAL  
Eucharistic  
Congress**

Travel Arrangements by  
Peter's Way Tours  
516-605-1551



**Annual Catholic  
Appeal 2024**  
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

This week begins the **2024 Annual Catholic Appeal**.  
We encourage everyone to view the 2024 ACA Video online at  
**[www.CFBQ.org/ACAVideo](http://www.CFBQ.org/ACAVideo)**

Your contributions to the Annual Catholic Appeal make a significant impact, aiding individuals in Brooklyn and Queens in ways beyond the capacity of any single parish.

Let us pray for the success of the 2024 Annual Catholic Appeal, envisioning a triumph that not only empowers us to extend love to those in need but also enables our hearts to respond to Jesus, who calls us to be in Communion, Participation and Mission.

We invite you to stand with St Mary Roman Catholic Church in supporting the **2024 Annual Catholic Appeal**.

To donate, visit **[www.AnnualCatholicAppeal.org](http://www.AnnualCatholicAppeal.org)** or text **DONATE** to **917-336-1255**.

## REFLECTIONS FOR DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



### Divine Mercy (Acts 2:42-47, I Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31)

**Introduction:** We celebrate today the feast of God's Mercy. The opening prayer addresses the Father as "God of everlasting Mercy." In first section of the Responsorial Psalm (Ps 118), we repeat three times, "*His mercy endures forever!*" God revealed His mercy, first and foremost, by sending His only begotten Son to become our Savior and Lord by His suffering, death and Resurrection. Divine Mercy is given to us also in each celebration of the Sacraments, which were instituted to sanctify us.

**Homily starter anecdote: Divine Mercy in action:** A *TIME* magazine issue in 1984 presented a startling cover. It pictured a prison cell where two men sat on metal folding chairs. The young man wore a black turtleneck sweater, blue jeans and white running shoes. The older man was dressed in a white robe and had a white skullcap on his head. They sat facing one another, up-close and personal. They spoke quietly so as to keep others from hearing the conversation. The young man was Mehmet Ali Agca, the pope's would-be assassin (he shot and wounded the Pope on May 13, 1981); the other man was Pope St. John Paul II, the intended victim. The Pope held the hand that had held the gun whose bullet tore into the Pope's body. This was a living icon of mercy. John Paul's forgiveness was deeply Christian. His deed with Ali Agca spoke a thousand words. He embraced his enemy and pardoned him. At the end of their 20-minute meeting, Ali Agca raised the Pope's hand to his forehead as a sign of respect. John Paul shook Ali Agca's hand tenderly. When the Pope left the cell he said, "What we talked about must remain a secret between us. I spoke to him as a brother whom I have pardoned and who has my complete trust." This is an example of God's Divine Mercy, the same Divine Mercy whose message St. Faustina witnessed. (<http://frtonyshomilies.com/>)

**Scripture lessons summarized:** The first reading (Acts 2:42-47), shows us how the early Church grew every day because of the acts of mercy and sharing, sacrificial *agápe* love, practiced by the early Christians. They expressed their love and mercy by sharing what they had with everyone in need. In the second reading (1 Peter 1:3-9), St. Peter glorifies God, the Father of Jesus Christ, for showing us His mercy by granting to His Son, Jesus Resurrection from the dead and a glorious Ascension into Heaven, thus offering us the assurance of our own resurrection, entry into Heaven, and "imperishable and unfading" Heavenly bliss. In today's Gospel, as we recall Jesus' appearance to the Apostles on that first Easter evening, we are vividly reminded of the Sacrament of Reconciliation – the power to forgive sins which Our Lord gave to His Apostles, saying, "*Whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain, they are retained*" (Jn 20:23). Today's Gospel also emphasizes the importance of Faith in the all-pervading presence of the risen Lord of Mercy. To "believe without having seen" is every later Christian's experience. We are invited to receive liberation from doubts and hesitation by surrendering our lives to the risen Lord of Mercy. Let us ask God our Father to open our hearts so that we may receive His Mercy in the form of the Holy Spirit.

**The first reading (Acts 2:42-47) explained:** Here we see how the early Church grew every day because of the acts of mercy -- sharing, sacrificial, *agápe* love -- practiced by the early Christians. They expressed their love and mercy by sharing what they had with everyone in need. Some of them even sold their property and entrusted the money to the Church so that the poor might be helped and supported. We are told that they got the inspiration and good will for the practice of love and mercy because of their sense of being one believing community, living a common life in Jesus. They were strengthened by their punctual and active participation in the "Breaking of the Bread"– the Eucharistic Liturgy. They became single-minded and merciful because of what they learned from the apostles and because of their fellowship and shared prayer life.

**The second reading (1 Peter 1:3-9) explained:** St. Peter glorifies God, the Father of Jesus Christ, for showing us His mercy by granting His Son, Jesus Resurrection from the dead and a glorious Ascension into Heaven. Jesus' Resurrection, in turn, offers us a guarantee for our own resurrection, entry into Heaven, and "imperishable and unfading" Heavenly bliss. St. Peter encourages the early Christians by assuring them that their sufferings under the Roman emperor, the Jewish authorities, and their own pagan family members will be amply compensated by the Heavenly reward waiting for them.

**Gospel exegesis: Today's Gospel:** The first part of today's Gospel (verses 19-23), describes how Jesus entrusted to the apostles His mission of preaching the "Good News" of God's love, mercy, forgiveness and salvation. This portion of the reading teaches us that Jesus uses the Church as the earthly means of continuing His mission. It also teaches us that the Church needs Jesus as its source of power and authority, and that it becomes Christ's true messenger only when it perfectly loves and obeys Him. The risen Lord gives the apostles the authority to forgive sins in His Name, together with the power of imparting God's mercy to the sinner, through the gift of forgiving sins from God's treasury of mercy. In the liturgy, the Church has proclaimed the mercy of God for centuries

**The second part of the Gospel (verses 24-29)**, presents the fearless apostle St. Thomas, in his uncompromising honesty, demanding a personal vision of, and physical contact with, the risen Jesus as a condition for his belief. Thomas had not been with the Apostles when Jesus first appeared to them. As a result, he refused to believe. This should serve as a warning to us. It is difficult for us to believe when we do not strengthen ourselves with the fellowship of other believers. When the Lord appeared to Thomas later, He said: "Blessed are those who have not seen but have believed." Thomas was able to overcome his doubts by seeing the risen Jesus. Modern Christians, who are no longer able to "see" Jesus with their eyes, must believe what they hear. That is why Paul reminds us that "Faith comes from hearing" (Rom 10:17).

**The unique profession of Faith:** Thomas, the "doubting" apostle, makes the great profession of Faith: "*My Lord and my God.*" Here, the most outrageous doubter of the Resurrection of Jesus utters the greatest confession of belief in the Lord Who rose from the dead. This declaration by the "doubting" Thomas in today's Gospel is very significant for two reasons. 1) It is the foundation of our Christian Faith. Our Faith is based on the Divinity of Jesus as demonstrated in His miracles, especially by the supreme miracle of His Resurrection from the dead. Thomas' profession of Faith is the strongest evidence we have of the Resurrection of Jesus. 2) Thomas' faith culminated in his self-surrender to Jesus, his heroic missionary expedition to India in A.D. 52, his fearless preaching, and the powerful testimony given by his martyrdom in A.D. 72.

**Life messages: 1) Let us accept God's invitation to celebrate and practice mercy.** One way the Church celebrates God's mercy throughout the year is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. "*If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.*" So, we see that all of us are to be reconcilers and mediators, becoming channel to one another of the Risen Lord's peace and forgiveness. Finding time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is another good way to receive Divine Mercy. The Gospel command, "*Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful,*" requires that we show mercy to our fellow human beings always and everywhere. We radiate God's mercy to others by our corporal and spiritual works of mercy, by our kind and supportive words, and our by our prayers for all our brothers and sisters.

**2) Let us ask God for the Faith that culminates in self-surrender to Him and leads us to serve those we encounter with love.** Living Faith enables us to see the risen Lord in everyone and gives us the willingness to render to each one our loving service. It was this Faith in the Lord and obedience to His missionary command that prompted St. Thomas to travel to India to preach the Gospel among the Hindus, to establish seven Christian communities (known later as "St. Thomas Christians"), and eventually to suffer martyrdom. The Fathers of the Church prescribe the following traditional means to grow in the living and dynamic Faith of St. Thomas the Apostle. a) We must come to know Jesus personally and intimately by our daily and meditative reading of the Bible. b) We must strengthen our Faith by the power of the Holy Spirit through our personal and communal prayer. c) We must share in the Divine life of Jesus by frequenting the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist. St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) presents it this way: "If we pray, we will believe; if we believe, we will love; if we love, we will serve. Only then we put our love of God into action."

**3) We need to meet the challenge for a transparent Christian life -- "I will not believe unless I see."** This "seeing" is what others demand of us. They ask that we reflect Jesus, the risen Lord in our lives by our selfless love, unconditional forgiveness, and humble service. The integrity of our lives bears a fundamental witness to others who want to see the risen Lord alive and active, working in us. Christ's mercy shines forth from us whenever we reach out to the poor, the needy and the marginalized, as St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) did. His mercy shines forth as we remain open to those who struggle in Faith, as did the Apostle Thomas in today's Gospel. We should be able to appreciate the presence of Jesus, crucified and raised, in our own suffering and in the sufferings of our brothers and sisters, thus recognizing the glorified wounds of the risen Lord in the suffering of those around us.

**4) Like St. Thomas, let us use our skepticism to help us grow in Faith.** It is our genuine doubts about the doctrines of our religion that encourage us to study these doctrines more closely and thus to grow in our Faith. This will naturally lead us to a personal encounter with Jesus through our prayer, study of the Word of God, and frequenting of the Sacraments. However, we must never forget the fact that our Faith is not our own doing but is a gift from God. Hence, we need to augment our Faith every day by prayer so that we may join St. Thomas in his proclamation: "My Lord and my God."

**5) Let us have the courage of our Christian convictions to share our Faith as St. Thomas did, and to recognize the "nail marks."** We are not to keep the gift of Faith locked in our hearts, but to share it with our children, our families and our neighbors, always remembering the words of Pope St. John XXIII: "Every believer in this world must become a spark of Christ's light." "We all have scars from our own Good Fridays that remain long after our own experiences of resurrection. Our 'nail marks' remind us that all pain and grief, all ridicule and suffering, are transformed into healing and peace in the love of God that we experience from others and that we extend to them. The "nail marks" of Jesus are all around us in the lives of those walking their own Calvarys. Jesus calls us to be willing to place ourselves in the pain and struggle of others and bring the joy and peace of Easter into hearts, entombed in winter cold and darkness." (Fr. Antony Kadavil)

**DONATE BLOOD AT OUR**  
**ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE**



**When: Sunday May 19, 2024**

**Time: 8:00am to 2:00pm**

**Where: Parish Hall**

**More information to follow from our sponsor "The LIC/Astoria Lions Club"**

**St Mary's Religious Education Program**  
**10-15 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
**Long Island City, NY 11101**  
**917-832-6104**

We encourage parents to attend **every Sunday Mass at 9:30 a.m.** alongside their children. Following the Mass, we invite parents to let their **kids explore and grow in faith** by attending our **Catholic faith classes for all ages**, which commence **at 10:30 a.m.**

**If you have any questions**, please reach out to: **Giovanna Varlese at 917-832-6104 or email at [DRE.StMaryLIC@gmail.com](mailto:DRE.StMaryLIC@gmail.com)**

May Christ Bless you and your family abundantly,  
Giovanna Varlese, Director



**Stations of the Cross Performance**

Stations of the Cross will be performed by the Religious Education Program on **Sunday, March 17 at 10:30 a.m.**

**In the Church Basement (Parish Hall).**

All Welcome



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**If you have any questions, please reach out to:** May God bless you and your family abundantly.  
 Yours in Christ, Giovanna Varlese, Director.

**Giovanna Varlese 917-832-6104 dre.stmarylic@gmail.com**



**St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church**  
**Pledged the Amount \$ 16,785**  
**For "The Annual Catholic Appeal 2024"**

- ⇒ Goal: \$16,785
- ⇒ Pledged: \$4,756
- ⇒ Received: \$3,563



**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** gather Mondays at 7:00 pm

Wednesday meetings take place via Zoom at 7:30 pm

For more information, please visit the website:

**Licgroupsaa@gmail.com**

Live Hotline from 9:00 am-2:00 am at 212-647-1680

Monday-Sunday

**Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth**  
**St. Mary Parish Choir**  
**Sunday Mass at 12:00 pm**  
**Rehearsal in the Church 11:15 am - 11:40 am**

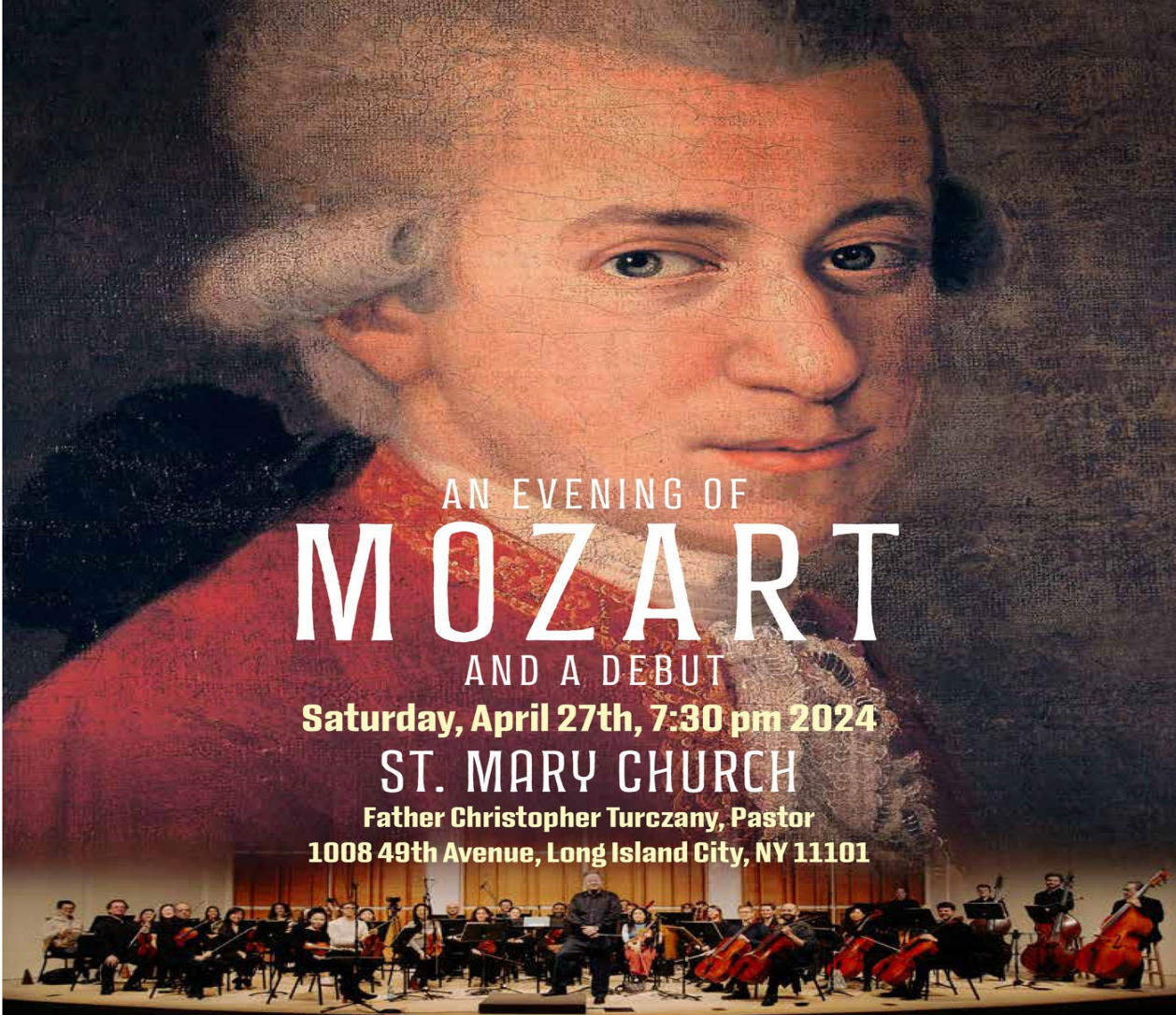


Our Parish Choir helps lead the congregation in song (along with our Cantor) at the Sunday Noon Mass every week.

Do you like to sing? If so, we would like to hear from you!

There is a painless and quick audition with Dr. Bischof our Director of Music to sing through a hymn and discuss the Parish Choir commitment.

To sign up for an audition, please contact Dr. Justin Bischof at **646-206-7638** or **justin@justinbischof.com**.



AN EVENING OF  
**MOZART**

AND A DEBUT

**Saturday, April 27th, 7:30 pm 2024**

**ST. MARY CHURCH**

Father Christopher Turczany, Pastor

1008 49th Avenue, Long Island City, NY 11101



**Piano Concerto No. 12 K. 414 (Movt. 1)  
Mozart Requiem K. 626**

**MOO MODUS OPERANDI ORCHESTRA  
THE MODUS SINGERS**

**Aydan Ferrao, piano (MOO Debut)**

**Justin Bischof, conductor**



**Tickets are \$30 & \$50**

**Please click [here](#), or scan the QR code below**

For more information about MOO including how to donate,  
please visit [www.moonyc.org](http://www.moonyc.org) or email: [info@moonyc.org](mailto:info@moonyc.org).



**MODUS OPERANDI ORCHESTRA**  
Justin Bischof, Music Director

