

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**



**Monday, February 6, 2012**  
7:00 am Francis J. Walsh, Jr. and Genevieve Walsh  
9:00 am Lawrence O'Brien-Wedding Anniv.

**Tuesday, February 7, 2012**  
7:00 am Robert Moshinger  
9:00 am John Clarke

**Wednesday, February 8, 2012**  
7:00 am DeBiase Family  
9:00 am Charles F. Vroman-Anniversary Rem.

**Thursday, February 9, 2012**  
7:00 am William Pepe  
9:00 am Dominick Burdi-1st Anniversary Rem.

**Friday, February 10, 2012**  
7:00 am Barbara Hickey  
9:00 am Rosina DiGangi

**Saturday, February 11, 2012**  
9:00 am Francis J. Walsh, Jr. & Genevieve Walsh  
John Gilligan  
Michael J. Gambardella  
Stephanie Yula—Living  
Joseph Behrens  
Lawrence Cibery  
William Mammes-8th Anniv. Rem.  
4:00 pm Living and Deceased Parishioners  
5:30 pm

**Sunday, February 12, 2012**  
7:30 am Connie Sciascia  
9:00 am Robert Cartier-Birthday Rem.  
10:30 am Members of Purgatorial Society  
12:00 pm Anthony Giarrizzo-1st Anniversary  
5:00 pm Francis J. Walsh, Jr. & Genevieve Walsh

**Please pray for the sick of our Parish and those who care for them:**

Michael Glose	Edward Zoccola	Bayani Santiago
Richard Strejlau	Margaret Mary Gmelch	Christopher Palmer
Larry Redican	Brian Mulligan	Thomas Volpe
Andrew Bartolozzi	Frank Santoriello	Frances Elberfeld
Nicole O'Neill	Mackenzie J. Borchers	Myrtle Melazzi
Emily Brophy	Ralph Esposito	Justin LaScala
Rose Vroman	Richard Girardi	Pat Kohler
Sally Waskewich	Rita Esposito	Michael Kolnberger
John Dominic Morea	Mary Sue Maluda	Debra M. Monahan
Jeanne Bianco	Dominick Granite	Theresa Gorozdi
Dorothy Vella	Connie Granite	Anne DellaRocca
Julianna Buttner	John LoBasso	William Joseph Adams
Jessica Buttner	Michael LoBasso	Thomas Marinace
David Golpanian	Sal Portelli	Maddie and Bob Kenny
Edward Weinschreider	Alan Meyer	Amanda Koch
Peter Mastropasqua	Joan Nauss	Joe Dunn
John McKeon	Elizabeth Logan	Marion O'Brien
Baby R. Sznurkowski	Baby Joseph Bedell	Jackie Grace
Andrew Gamard	Anna Lopez	Kenneth Lisle
Leonard Toscano	Diana Skelton	Charles Ditta
Raymond O'Rourke	Mary Fitzsimmons	Dominick Prestipino
Dorothy Montuori	Coleen Ventricelli	Ryan Malley
Marion Gattus	Mario DiGangi	Rita Berkman
John/Connie Cardillo	Joyce Ambrusino	Catherine La Barbera
Philip Crepeau	Mike Cunnane, Sr.	Mary Muzzillo
Steven Bonansinga	Maura Dolan-Colucci	Heather Palleschi
Baby Sophia Maglione	Sean Matthews	Becky Neuuhedel
Rose Maglione	Mary Mallon	Florence Schneider
June Bellofatto	Baby Ellieanna Barbers	James Fava
Michael Capobianco	Baby Paul Meyers	Michael Latva
Mary Ann Kotoucek	Christine Americo	Baby Anthony Winter



**Please pray for the deceased of our parish and those who mourn them.**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR MILITARY**



Jonathan Ambrosini	Kristin Paladino
Chris Caiozzi	Christopher Manzalillo
Joseph Carroll	Evan Marcy
Anthony Cavaliere	Drew Masone
Michael Dundon	Robert Michelotti
Christopher Eckert	Marc Mitchell
James Fenton	Gregory Nordquist
Michael Geller	Peter Rommel
Murray Griffin	Adam Ropelewski
James Harris	Joshua Rotondo
Ashlee Heckler	Michael Sanchez
Timothy Hirten	Alfred Simeone
Ryan Hodgetts	Michael Simeone
Gregory Holownia	Jason Spinella
Michael Jackvony	John M. Tarpey
Timothy Judge	Chad Thornton
Daniel Klein	Nathan White
James Lisle	John Zimmerman
Thomas Lisle	Kevin Zwijczak
George Lynch, Jr.	

**Altar Candle Donations**



*Our Altar Candles  
for the week of February 5, 2012  
are in memory of Michael J. Califano  
donated by his wife Jackie and  
children Michael, Christopher and Andrew*

**BULLETIN REFLECTION**

Like St. Paul in the second reading, the good steward can say, "I do all that I do for the sake of the gospel in the hope of having a share in its blessings."

**LIVING STEWARDSHIP**

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who use their gifts of healing and forgiveness to help repair relationships in families beset with divorce, death, dysfunction or abuse.

***Witness to life; witness to religious freedom—Bishop William Murphy***

On the eve of the annual Pro-Life March in Washington, Allison O'Brien, the dynamic director of our diocesan Respect Life Office, e-mailed me to say that this year the diocese of Rockville Centre has registered 38 buses and 1,803 people who will be participating in the March for Life on Monday, January 23. The Cathedral Parish of St. Agnes has become a central point for different areas. From the cathedral there are three buses leaving for the March. As Allison said to me, "We have a great team!" When the Pro-Life movement was getting its start in response to Roe v. Wade 40 years ago, much of the national leadership came from lay faithful of our diocese. Bishop McGann was a staunch supporter and Bishop McHugh, as a young priest, became the engine of the Church's pro-life efforts, nationally and internationally. What a tribute to those pioneers is this annual turnout of Long Islanders to stand up for human life, from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death and every moment in between.

As Allison was coordinating the final preparations for this commitment to life, human dignity and freedom, the U.S. bishops and, an hour later, our own nation, received some heartbreaking news from President Obama. It too dealt with life, human dignity and freedom. However, instead of protecting human dignity and freedom, the news from the President concerned an attack on them. The President called the president of the US Bishops Conference, Cardinal-elect Dolan, to tell them that he had approved a decision of the Department of Health and Human Services that mandates contraceptive services be included in almost every health insurance plan in the country. To that contraceptive mandate, HHS added, and the President approved, a broader mandate that includes not only contraceptives but also sterilizations and abortion-inducing drugs.

**This mandate is a radical incursion on the part of our government into freedom of conscience founded on our religious beliefs!** It contravenes the First Amendment and several federal laws. More importantly, it violates the law of God who gave us life and calls us to respect all human life. The Bill of Rights assures us that we have a right in this country to obey God's law and follow our conscience, free to live out our religious beliefs as individual persons and as institutions. Forcing us to buy or provide coverage for sterilization and contraceptives, including drugs that induce abortion, is a **radical incursion into our freedom of conscience and religious exercise.**

There is in this mandate a very narrow exception clause that is practically meaningless to the exercise of freedom of conscience and religious belief. It would, in an alarming number of circumstances, not except or exempt even Jesus, or anyone else who offers the healing care of Jesus to others, from being forced to act like persons who do not share their beliefs. It is, therefore, a direct assault on our own right to freedom of exercise of our beliefs. Further, with so few exceptions protecting religious freedom, this mandate forces virtually all insurance plans to cover such services and in so doing, endangers the ability of our Catholic hospitals to continue to provide health care according to the tenets of Jesus and the Church rather than the government.

Beyond the fact that the mandate mentions only three things that violate our conscience, the more alarming point is that the federal government has knowingly and willingly jettisoned the First Amendment and, in so doing, placed an unjust burden on a significant portion of American citizens. Pregnancy is not a disease. This mandate is not about health care. This is our government bending to a well financed lobby that wants to guarantee, not only that its own point of view is protected, but that its point of view is mandated for all of us whose religious sensitivities and whose religious beliefs now count for nothing.

The President did emphasize that there is a one year "window" given to persons and institutions whose religious beliefs are being violated, "to adjust to the new mandate." Do not be fooled. The federal government is not offering us an opportunity to seek the wider exceptions or exemptions to which we are entitled under the Constitution. They are telling us that we have one year to conform to government mandates and not one day more.

This of course leaves us in a very difficult predicament. Friday last, Pope Benedict addressed a group of U.S. bishops on their *ad limina* visit on the issue of religious liberty. It is a clear and concise, very readable, defense of religious freedom. You can read about it in this week's Long Island Catholic on page six. I e-mailed it to every priest in the diocese. You can find the full text at [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va). Consistent with the teaching of Jesus and the Church as found in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the Holy Father helps us to articulate and defend the right to religious freedom that is ours from God. All the governments of the world, regardless of their history and culture, acknowledge the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* which in Section 18 makes that right the standard for every civilized nation.

The U.S. bishops have publicly called on the President to rescind this violation of the First Amendment embodied in the HHS mandate. If the Administration will not do so, the Congress must. If neither does, then we, not for any partisan purposes or any political preferences for any particular candidate, but for the defense and protection of the First Amendment and the most basic of human rights, the right to freedom of conscience and belief, must be as one at the ballot box in November as we keep these issues in mind.

As Pope Benedict told the bishops last Friday: *"It is imperative that the entire Catholic community in the United States come to realize the grave threats to the Church's moral witness presented by a radical secularism which finds increasing expression in the political and cultural spheres...Of particular concern are certain attempts being made to limit the most cherished of American freedoms, the freedom of religion..."*

*There can be no doubt that a more consistent witness on the part of American Catholics to their deepest convictions would make a major contribution to the renewal of society as a whole..."*



## *Maria Regina Church Pre-Cana*

Pre-Cana is designed for engaged couples to cover topics that will help them in their married life.

The program runs three times per year (fall, winter and spring) for six weeks. Ideally there should be about six to 10 couples participating each season. The first of the six-weekly meetings is an introductory night. The couples meet at the church and hear from one of the facilitators. During the next four weeks, the couples meet in the home of the facilitating couples. They have discussions and work their way through a workbook. The work book covers topics such as communication, family of origin, personalities and pasts, sexuality, children, spirituality, finances, family and friends. Couples spend part of the time working one-on-one and part in group discussions, mainly the latter. The couples meet for a final time at Mass where they are called forward to receive a certificate and receive a cross. The Mass is followed by a party.

In the end, the couples hopefully have a better understanding of their relationship to God and each other and are better prepared for a lifelong journey together.

*We are looking for couples who would like to enrich their marriage by helping young engaged couples prepare for the sacrament of marriage!*

Being a facilitating couple is a very rewarding experience. You get to share some of your memories going back to your courtship, your wedding day, the day your children were born. It truly will bring you closer together as a couple and help provide a much needed insight into what marriage is like for these young, engaged couples.

*If you are interested in joining our Pre-Cana Program, please contact Deacon John Nuzzi at the Rectory Office: 516-798-2415.*



# 2012 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

## One Faith, One Hope, Many Gifts

### ***All funds raised support the Appeal and its Ministries***

Every year, through the support and commitment of individuals and organizations, we serve more than 600,000 people in our Long Island community. This support enables our children to continue to receive the gift of spiritual formation, sacramental preparation, and quality education. It allows seminarians, deacons, and lay leaders to fulfill their calling to serve their community. With your support Catholic Charities can maintain its services for the poor and disadvantaged, and we can continue to reach out to our young people and others to find the best ways to guide and pass on our faith from generation to generation.

Many wonder what benefits or services the parish receives from the Appeal. There are many, many ministries which are made possible, in whole or in part, by the Annual Appeal. These ministries connect our local parish with the entire Catholic Church community on Long Island.

### ***Because of the Catholic Ministries Appeal:***

We are able to bring the Word of God to more than 50,000 students at secular colleges across Long Island.

More than 10,000 young people participate in Parish Youth Ministry programs

More than 110,000 of our students in public schools participate in religious education programs taught by 12,000 dedicated catechists.

Through our Parish outreach programs more than 100,000 people are provided with food, clothing and support each year.

Through Catholic Charities more than 500,000 meals are delivered or served to seniors and families in need.

These are just some of the good works that are made possible by the  
**Catholic Ministries Appeal.**

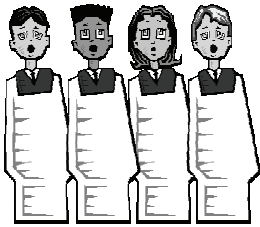
**You can make a difference in your parish and in the lives of those around us by making a gift to this year's appeal. Visit the CMA Web Site at [www.CatholicMinistriesAppeal.org](http://www.CatholicMinistriesAppeal.org) for more information, or to view the video.**



### Coupon Clippers

In these trying economic times coupons can help in saving money on groceries, school supplies, clothing, etc. In an effort to help our families more completely, we would like to give them an envelope of money saving coupons to be applied to their purchases.

The next meeting of Fr. Paul's Coupon Clippers will take place on Thursday, February 9th at 10 a.m. in the St. Michael's Room of the Pastoral Center. Join us and have some fun while helping people in need!



### Altar Servers

We are looking for Altar Servers. It is open to all boys and girls in 4th through 8th grades. If you are interested, please come to the Rectory and fill out a registration form. You will be contacted as to practice times.

### Volunteers Needed for Annual HEC #28 Weekend

Handicapped Encounter Christ (HEC) is in need of volunteers for its annual retreat which will be held Thursday, April 26 through Sunday, April 29, 2012 at Camp Alvernia in Centerport, NY.

HEC is a retreat weekend for persons 18 years and older with special needs. Each candidate has a team member with them throughout the weekend. It is a prayerful experience of song, talks, sharing, Eucharist and many other joyful moments.

There are many roles to be filled. We are in need of team members, kitchen help, setting up and taking down the camp, as well as drivers for our candidates.

Our first planning meeting will take place on Wed., Feb. 8th @ 7 pm at ST. Francis of Assisi in Greenlawn. Two follow-up meetings are planned for Wed, March 7th @ 7 pm and April 4th @ 7 pm. We request that those interested make every effort to attend at least two meetings.

Please call Deacon Frank & Michele Barone at 516-420-1207 or e-mail at Mrbarone@verizon.net for further information.

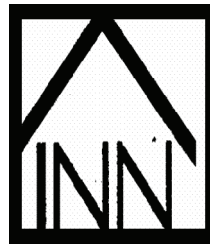
### INDIVIDUAL SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Would you like to nourish your faith, grow in prayer and clarify God's action in your life with an attentive listener?

Then consider the individual spiritual direction sessions being offered by a trained Spiritual Director who is a graduate from Fordham University with a Master of Arts in Religious Education with a concentration in Spiritual Direction.

For more information, call 631-691-2386 or email [mclunt@sprintmail.com](mailto:mclunt@sprintmail.com) and leave a message with your name and telephone number for Marion Lunt.

All sessions take place at Maria Regina; time to be arranged.



### INNKEEPERS

Next weekend, February 11th and 12th, is Soup Bowl Weekend, the annual fundraiser for the Innkeepers. Members will be at all doors after each Mass to accept your donations.

Please be as generous as possible.

### Pastoral Council—Calling all Youth!

The Pastoral Council is looking for new members preferably college age. We are looking for those who practice our faith, can commit to meeting every two months and are willing to take on committee work.

#### **What is a Pastoral Council?**

The Council, in consultation with the Pastor, identifies and prioritizes the needs, hopes, and dreams of the parishioners, in accord with the Parish mission statement. Success depends on input from parishioners to council members. Research and investigation is done for each item by priority to judge the feasibility for implementation at Maria Regina.

If you are interested, please contact a Council Member by visiting Maria Regina's website:

<http://mariaregina.com/>

Or feel free to contact a member through the Rectory by mailing or dropping off a handwritten communication or by emailing [mariareg@optonline.net](mailto:mariareg@optonline.net).

**Banns of Marriage**

**Third Time**

**James Schmitt & Pollianna Farace**



**HOLY NAME SOCIETY**

The HNS Executive Board meets on Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 7:30 PM in the School Front Conference Room.

The next Holy Name Mass is on Sunday, February 12, 2012 at 9:00 AM. All HNS members should try to attend for corporate Holy Communion. All men of Maria Regina Parish over the age of eighteen are invited to join the Holy Name Society.

**The next Holy Name Society meeting is on Monday, February 13, 2012 at 7:30 PM in the Music and Art Room. Brother Ed Ferro, Past President of the Nassau County Fire Police Association and an active Fire-Fighter and members of the North Massapequa Fire Department will give a presentation on Fire Prevention and Safety in the Home.**

Please visit the HNS page on the Maria Regina website ([www.mariaregina.com](http://www.mariaregina.com)). Click on the Ministries, Service Ministries, and Holy Name Society tabs and learn more about what the HNS is and does.



**Human Life Committee**

**Concerning "Buffer Zones"**

County Legislators are considering resolutions which would result in an assault on our First Amendment Rights—the sacrosanct right of free speech. They are seeking to create a 35 foot "Buffer Zone" at

abortion facilities. It seeks to restrict pro-life counselors access to mothers who are abortion-minded to offer life-saving alternatives.

It has been tabled for the meantime, but be prepared for round two!

A full explanation can be found in the bookracks in the Narthex of the church.

Source: Life News, November 2011

**"Shopping Cents" Gift Card Program**

**What:** We will be selling gift cards from King Kullen, Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Waldbaum's/Pathmark, Dunkin Donuts Panera, Kohl's, CVS and more.

Gift cards are available in varying denominations from \$10. to \$100.

**When:** After every Mass on Saturday, Feb. 18 and Sunday, Feb. 19.

**How:** You can pay by cash or check made payable to Maria Regina Scrip Program.

**Why:** Exchange your money for a gift card to pay for your groceries or other everyday purchases. You will be helping out Maria Regina at NO COST TO YOU!

**Thank you for all your support!!!**

**50th Anniversary of  
Maria Regina School**

**Did you know?**

**Original building plans for Maria Regina School included a basement with a Cafeteria. The builders were unable to go deep enough into the ground, and the basement level and cafeteria could not be built. When school opened in 1962, children ate lunch in their classrooms or went home for lunch.**

**Maria Regina Singles Club**

The next meeting of the Maria Regina Singles Club will take place on Thursday, February 9th, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Michael's Room of the Pastoral Center.

Join us and bring a friend!

**NOTE: PARKING—Monday and Tuesday of next week (Feb. 6/7), please DO NOT park in the Western and Northern part of the back parking lot. The Tree Company is coming to cut down trees and we do not want any cars damaged.**

**Thank you for your cooperation!**

## Ministry Page

### INNKEEPERS

Team #6 will be working Wednesday evening February 8th, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

### EVANGELIZATION

We can't expect someone to open up to us unless we are willing to do the same. Your faith journey is a blessing, meant to be shared, and the witness you give may have a profound influence on someone.

**Invite someone back to church!**

### Parish Social Ministry 795-7438 Widow and Widowers Bereavement Support Group

If you have experienced the death of your spouse within the last two years and would like to join others as they process the loss, please call Kathy Ryan at 516-795-7438 to register for this group.

**NOTE:** We have a Girl Scout Troop in need of an additional female, adult member to volunteer. The troop meets for 1 hour on Tues. afternoons at Schwarting Elementary School on Flower Rd., in Massapequa. There is no experience necessary, you only need to be patient and enjoy working with children. The troop consists of nine 3rd grade girls. If interested, call Parish Social Ministry at 516-795-7438.

### Little Rock Scripture Study Acts of the Apostles II

Moderated by: Fr. Peter and Deacon Whitfield

Four Week Program:  
Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28

Please Call: 516-798-2415  
Parish Rectory to register.

Pastoral Center—St. Michael's Room  
Tuesday Mornings at 9:30 am  
or Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm

### Youth Ministry @ Maria Regina

Meg Albertini, Director of Youth Ministry  
E-mail: [youth@mariaregina.com](mailto:youth@mariaregina.com), Telephone: 541-6513

**February 10<sup>th</sup>: Holy Hour & Dodge Ball @ The Seminary:** All teens are welcome to come to the Seminary in Huntington and experience **Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament** followed by a game of dodge ball. Anyone interested in experiencing this **Grace-filled and fun evening** please contact Meg at the Youth Office prior to Monday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> to arrange for transportation. Permission slips are located on Maria Regina's Web Site under Youth Ministry.

**February 19<sup>th</sup>: Game Night (7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Teens) 6:30 – 8:00 pm**

**February 25<sup>th</sup>:** Cooking for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House of Long Island (RMH). As dinner volunteers, we will have the opportunity to cook for families in need. All cooking must be done on site within two hours. Any teen, 16 years old and up may participate. Please contact the Youth Office as soon as possible for further details.

**July 24<sup>th</sup> – July 28<sup>th</sup>: Youth Retreat/Service Opportunity**

At St. Joseph Renewal Center in Brentwood. This event had its debut last summer and was extremely successful and great fun. If you are at all interested, please contact Meg as soon as possible to receive the service/retreat brochure enabling you to register. Space is limited!

### Save the Dates . . .

**May 4<sup>th</sup> – May 5<sup>th</sup> Overnight Lock-In Experience** for teens 8<sup>th</sup> grade and up. Any teens interested in joining in on the planning, please contact Meg.

**April 15<sup>th</sup> Parish "New Life Breakfast"**

### Habitat for Humanity Housing Project

We have a wonderful opportunity to work on a housing project in Suffolk County. To secure a date **I must have a minimum of ten committed teens 16 years of age and up.** Interested teens/young adults please contact the Youth Ministry Office as soon as possible.



**\*Our Parish Web Site now contains important Youth Ministry information.**

**MESSAGE FROM MEG**  
**GO GIANTS!**



## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**hgentile@mariaregina.com** (Administrative Assistant)

**amoran@mariaregina.com** (Confirmation Coordinator)

**ctannehill@mariaregina.com** (Director)



### **REMINDER: SEVENTH GRADE NOTEBOOK CHECK: WEEK OF FEB. 27<sup>TH</sup>**

All students should have the following in their notebooks:

8 Mass Reflections (Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb)

Wedding Summary

Letter to Pastor

### **For the Ride Home**

We welcome all First Graders to our Family Mass!

When you are busy or tired, what do you say to your family or friends who need your attention? Who or what can remind us to be more loving and patient with others around us? When you hear about people who are sick what do you do? How do you think today's gospel story might help you to be more like Jesus? Make a picture for someone who needs to be cheered up.



**Jesus, we know you are with us.  
We will call on your name always.**

**Jesus, you know all our needs.  
You are always ready to help us.**

**Give us the courage to be your  
faithful followers each and every day.  
Amen.**



## Maria Regina School

Celebrating 50 years of Catholic Education

*Respect, Responsibility, Reverence*

*\*A Middle States Accredited School*

*\*Full Day Kindergarten*

*\*First through Eighth Grade*

*\*A Christ-centered education*

*\*Advanced Math*

*\*Enrichment and AIS Services*

*\*Service Oriented*

*\*Hot Lunch Program*

*\*Before and After Care*

*\*SMART Boards*

*\*Computer Lab*

*\*Extracurricular Clubs*

*\*Student Council*

*\*Rachel's Challenge*

*\*CYO Sports*

*\*Junior and Senior Chorus*

*\*Beginner and Experienced Band*

*\*School Play*

*\*Bag Pipe Club*

*\*Parents Association*

*\*Fathers' Club*

*\*And so much more!*



### **50th Anniversary Events**

#### **Saturday, March 3**

Young Alumni Party, 3-4:30 pm

Alumni Mass, 5:30 pm

Alumni Party, 7-11 pm

#### **Saturday, May 19**

50th Anniversary Picnic

Marjorie Post Park

#### **June 21-24**

Bazaar

#### **Saturday, September 28**

Dinner Dance

The Coral House

4045 Jerusalem Ave, Seaford NY, 11783

Phone: (516)541-1229/Fax: (516)541-1235

[www.mariareginaschool.org](http://www.mariareginaschool.org)

Now accepting registration for the 2012-2013 school year