

# Church of Saint Mel

2615 154th St., Flushing, NY 11354

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

[www.stmels-queens.org](http://www.stmels-queens.org)



Sunday, August 25, 2024

## 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 - 7:30 A.M., 9:00 A.M. (Italian),  
10:30 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](http://www.stmelsacademy.org)

Board Chair: Dominick Yezzo

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.



What do missionaries and backpacks have in common?

Both will be at St. Mel's this weekend.

For the past few Sundays, we have announced that our Annual Mission Appeal will take place this weekend.

And so, join me in welcoming Father Paul Dass Selvaraj to St. Mel's.

Born in South India, Father Paul is the pastor of Most Precious Blood parish in Chula Vista, CA. He comes to St. Mel's to ask us to support the missionary work of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate of which he is a member.

In advance: Thank You, St. Mel's, for your generous support of the Missions past and present. A second collection for the Oblates will be taken up at all the Masses today.

Now, the backpacks.

With school a week away, it's fitting that today I bless our students and their new school supplies.

As we believe that "every blessing counts," join me in asking the Lord to send His Holy Angels to keep our young people safe to and from school this year. Let us also beseech the Holy Spirit and ask that their young minds be infused with the desire to strive for academic success in the classroom and their young hearts be given the courage to be Christian witnesses outside it.

Yes, missionaries are like backpacks; they are called, as are we, to carry the Word of God to others.

Father Fonti

## Missionary Prayer

*"Go forth and set the world on fire." — St. Ignatius of Loyola*

**God of Heaven and Earth,**

You have fed me your word  
And sent me forth to love and serve.  
A missionary, you have called me to be.  
Even in my smallness and sin  
You chose me to sing the song of your love,  
The hymn of your mercy,  
The anthem of your justice.

Guide my path, Lord.  
Send me among the people you have made,  
Whether across the globe or across the street.  
Give me the grace to be welcomed in  
And the courage to stand out.

May my words compel  
As they invoke your spirit.  
May my acts shine  
As they demonstrate your faithfulness.

Though I may falter, help me to rise again,  
Doing your will always.  
And when I depart, may they say,  
"That one was different.  
That one knew the Lord."

**Amen**

**CRS**  
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES  
Prayer by Edward O'N. Hoy/CRS  
Photo by Nancy McNally/CRS



## Mass Intentions - August 25, 2024

### **Saturday, August 24**

5:00 Mom & Dad Cervasio

### **Sunday, August 25**

7:30 Lena O'Malley

9:00 Giovanna & Vito La Puma, Salvatore & Martina Bacarella

Domenico Zampini

Carmelo Acquista

Angelo Vitale

Pasqualina Natale

Paolo Pace

The People of The Parish

10:30 Anthony & Elizabeth Falsone

12:00 Kevin Hopkins (12th Anniversary in Heaven) ,

Joan Hopkins (40th Anniversary in Heaven) &

Bobby Hill (42nd Anniversary in Heaven)

### **Monday, August 26**

8:00 Rocco & Nicoletta Signore, & Roseann Genese

### **Tuesday, August 27**

8:00 Todd Gleason

### **Wednesday, August 28**

8:00 Angelo Fraraccio

### **Thursday, August 29**

8:00 Lawrence Bono

### **Friday, August 30**

8:00 John Joseph Tierny (Happy Birthday in Heaven)

### **Saturday, August 31**

9:00 All Souls in Purgatory

5:00 Joseph & Gina Picerno

### **Sunday, September 1**

7:30 Thomas J. Farrell

9:00 Pietro Gagliano

Francesco Baldo, Jenny, Mateo, Santina, Gigetto &

Gigetta Calabro

Andrew DiCamillo, Lino DiCamillo & Lydia Giugliano

Michele Turturro

Vincenzo Trentini

Angelo Vitale

The People of The Parish

10:30 Butch Dodici

12:00 Nils Carlstron

## *Bread and Wine*

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

*Deceased Members of the  
Hopkins & Hill Families*

## *Altar Candles*

*This week the Altar Candles are donated  
In Loving Memory of:*

*Benedict Tockarszewsky*

*Given by: His Family*

## *Sanctuary Candles*

*This week the Sanctuary Candle is  
donated in Loving Memory of:*

*Mary Muggeo*

*Given by: Regina & Jack Bono*

*Newly Enrolled in the  
Purgatorial Society*

*July, 2024*

*Diane Stolfi Baker*

*Nayda Cruz*

*Angelo Vitale*

*Yamile Melgar*



## *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 Sperazza
- Susan Trezioso
- Nick Roberto
- Pasqualina Lucciola
- Julia Rollo
- Francesca Cecile
- Angelo Ragonese
- Nick O'Donnell
- Patricia O'Donnell
- Kristian Mendez
- Jennifer Russo
- Roseann Orlando
- Barbara Ann Luisi
- Tom Sammel
- Freda Cassini
- Jacinta Carolan
- Assunta Goldone
- Kruno Pandzic
- Carol Sturm
- Martha Catul
- Dominick Fortino
- RoseAnn Dell Apenna
- Alida Addeo
- Yolanda Gatti
- Patricia Parrish
- Carmen A. Leites
- Carolynn Freeda
- Anthony Marino
- Mario Sumberac
- Helen Sumberac
- George Behringer
- Avery Santiago
- Ari Ortiz
- 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
- John Paul Yezzo
- Niki Angelopoulos
- Valerie Albano Krug
- Bryan Day
- Theresa Bedell
- Angela Infantino
- Carol VitoBello
- Giovanna Palmese
- Olga Scopa
- Tom Hummel
- Edda Iacona
- Bob Mistretta
- Patricia Lamagna
- Lester Kuczynski
- Beverly Ilchert
- Danielle Byrd
- Patricia Suarz
- Lena Bae
- Antoinette Ruotolo
- Charles Ragnauth
- Giovanna Mazzone
- James Burns
- Giovanni Badalamente
- Vivian Dunne
- Kaylie Santana
- Michelle Milano
- Joseph Onorato
- Jean Cettina

### **We pray for those recently deceased from our parish:**

**Thomas DeCarlo, Richard Gagliardotto, Calogero Gambino, & Louise Ruckdeschel**



### **Stay Connected to St. Mel's Church**

Go to: <http://stmelsrchurch.flocknote.com> or you can find the app, Flocknote

This will bring you to the sign up page to enter your name, email address, and mobile phone number. You will be asked to verify your email or mobile number or both if given.

Once you have your information verified you will be asked to create a password.

Then you will just follow the directions on the site.

Once all is complete you will be set up to receive updates from Fr. Fonti.

### **Connect with St Mel using the Free Social App Tabella**

Tabella is a fully Catholic app where you can enjoy Catholic content to grow in the faith. The Tabella app is available in English/ Spanish and has the biggest library of Catholic audio devotional content.

If you currently receive parish communications through Flocknote, be sure to download this app to your phone as it will eventually replace Flocknote for parish communications. This app is very easy to use and when there is a post from us you will get a push notification on your phone.

In the meantime, use all the resources available on this app to nurture your faith.

**Step 1:** Just scan the QR code to the left.

**Step 2:** Find and Follow St Mel Church. Use the Communities tab and search for "11354" Then click the "follow" Button on our church profile. You are now all set.





# ST. MEL'S

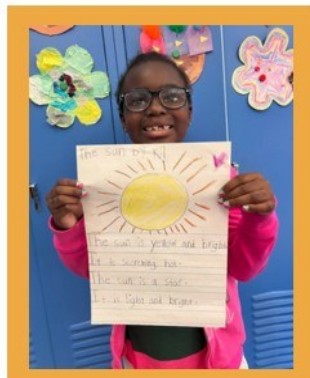
## CATHOLIC ACADEMY

**REGISTER NOW  
FOR THE  
2024-25  
SCHOOL YEAR  
3K-7th GRADE!**



***Set your child on the path to a bright future at St. Mel's***

- Piano Lab and Paint CAN art studio
- Indoor & outdoor gross motor play areas
- Social-emotional learning
- Hands-on, inquiry & center based learning
- Individualized and differentiated instruction
- Technology integration—Smartboards, iPads
- Tuition free 3K and Pre-K for All classes
- Early drop off and afterschool available
- Tuition assistance available
- Warm, nurturing environment
- Tennis, Chess, Baking, CYO Sports
- Flying Classrooms, STEM Program



154-24 26th Avenue  
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(718) 539-8211  
[www.stmelsacademy.org](http://www.stmelsacademy.org)

***St. Mel's Catholic Academy fosters the spiritual, social, emotional and academic growth of our students in a nurturing, Christ-centered environment to build a foundation for life.***



Join us for a



**BBQ**



**The St. Mel's Welcome Back BBQ**

**Friday, September 13th**

**6:00 PM**

**FOOD DRINKS DESSERT**

This is a free event

**50/50 DRAWING**

**Sponsored by The Men's Club**

Please call or email to RSVP

Tony Flynn (917) 376-5286 / [ma2kflynn@yahoo.com](mailto:ma2kflynn@yahoo.com)

Frank Keppel (718) 873-6759 / [kepsenior@yahoo.com](mailto:kepsenior@yahoo.com)

Rain Date: **September 20th**





# St. Mel's 3rd Annual Cigar Night



Thursday  
October 3rd, 2024



6:00 - 10:00PM



Bourbon Street  
40-12 Bell Blvd  
Bayside, NY 11361

Join us for our  
3rd Annual Cigar Night!  
All proceeds benefit  
St. Mel's Catholic Academy



All tickets must be purchased in advance  
Please call or email Dani Van Arsdale  
(718) 539-8211  
[dvanarsdale@stmelsschool.org](mailto:dvanarsdale@stmelsschool.org)

# St. Mel Catholic Academy Alums

**SAVE THE DATE**

St Mel Catholic Academy is on the move.  
We are growing and expanding  
at a time when many catholic schools are closing.  
We are more important than ever.

Come see what's been going on  
at your Alma Mater and join us in support of our  
mission to continue providing Catholic Education,  
moral strength and academic excellence  
into the future.

With a generous donation from one of our  
alumnus, Steve Somers (74'), we have begun  
updating our school and have a fresh new look.  
We still have much to do but we are on our way.

**Who:** All St. Mel School/Academy Alumni

**When:** October 19th

**What:** 5pm Mass - School tour and reception

**More Info To Come**

**Help Us Achieve  
Our Mission.  
Consider Donating**



**SCAN ME** 







# Religious Education

**REGISTER NOW**

St. Mel's Office of Faith Formation oversees the St. Mel School of Religion Program which provides Religious Instruction to children in grades 1 through 8 who attend public schools.

Through our Religious Education program, we seek to increase children's awareness of the presence of God in their daily lives through Scripture, prayer and an age-appropriate curriculum. The program also prepares the children to complete their initiation into the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Penance/First Communion and Confirmation.

Classes are held on Wednesdays from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm for Grades 1-5 and from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm for Grades 6-8.

If you haven't already, new and returning students should register for the 2024-2025 school year as soon as possible by completing the on-line registration form at:

<https://stmels-queens.org/religious-education>. The tuition fee for the 2024-2025 school year is \$150 for one child, \$200 for two children and \$225 for three or more children. Tuition can be paid through one of the following three options:

- **By Check** - Please make all checks payable to St. Mel Religious Education. You can mail the check to the St. Mel Rectory clearly marked to the attention of the Office of Faith Formation with your child's full name noted on the check or cover note accompanying your payment.
- **Zelle** - To make payment via Zelle send to [faith@stmels-queens.org](mailto:faith@stmels-queens.org) Please include a note indicating your child's full name.
- **Cash** - Payments in cash can be dropped off at the St. Mel Rectory in an envelope clearly marked to the attention of the Office of Faith Formation with your child's full name noted on the envelope.

May all the children/catechists and their families have a restful summer! If you have any questions regarding St. Mel's Religious Education program, please email us during the summer months at [stmelfaithformation@gmail.com](mailto:stmelfaithformation@gmail.com) and [mariamarotta@stmels-queens.org](mailto:mariamarotta@stmels-queens.org).



## **OCIA – Order of Christian Initiation for Adults**

*A Journey of Faith*

ARE YOU SOMEONE OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO...

- Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic?
- Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Communion and/or Confirmation?

If you answered yes to either of these questions, we invite you to look deeper into the Catholic faith through a process called the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (“OCIA”)

Here at St. Mel, we offer an opportunity to come together in a small group (collaborating with the program at St. Luke’s), to learn more about our faith. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation during the Easter season.

You are welcome to participate in the process with your questions, your insights and your faith story in a warm and welcoming setting. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact the Office of Faith Formation at [stmelfaithformation@gmail.com](mailto:stmelfaithformation@gmail.com).



## Bundle Saturday St. Vincent de Paul



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

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

## NARANON OPEN MEETING

Looking for support?  
A loved one struggling with addiction?

## YOU ARE NOT ALONE

JOIN US TUESDAY EVENINGS FROM  
7:30-9:00PM

Lower level of St. Mel School

**Contact: Ann Acquaviva 201-400-7760**

for more details

## St. Mel's Leisure Club

The Leisure Club will resume meeting weekly on Mondays. The first meeting for 2024-2025 will be September 16th at 1:30pm in Fr. O'Malley. Entrance through the main doors of the church. This year we would like to ask God's blessings for the club and its members at the noon Mass on Sunday, September 15th, If available please join us.

We warmly welcome any senior who would like to join us. We have bingo, cards, board games, and friendly conversation. You can pass the time sharing your interests with friends and neighbors. New tables for book clubs and crafts are encouraged. Cake and coffee are served at every meeting. Around the holidays we enjoy a festive meal together.

Give the club a chance. Come to cultivate friendships and to learn about community events and information. Please leave a message for Ann at the rectory office with any questions.

# A PRAYER FOR POLICE OFFICERS



Almighty God ~

We pray that you watch over  
our police and law officers each day  
as they keep us safe  
in our homes and on our streets.

Dear God, their work is often  
stressful and dangerous  
so we humbly place them in your care.  
We pray that you shield them from harm  
as they carry out their service on our behalf.

Please give these brave men and women  
your Almighty protection and  
unite them safely with their loved ones  
at the end of every day. ~ Amen

0818

**August 18, 2024**  
**Mass Attendance Total = 568**

5:00 PM— 105

7:30 AM—82

9:00 AM—66

10:30 AM—179

12:00 PM—136



AA Meetings

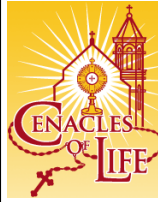
The First Step is always the hardest.  
It's made easier when it is not taken  
alone. St. Mel's hosts 2 Weekly  
Meetings:

Mondays – 7:30 PM (Beginners)

Thursdays – 8:00 PM

Meetings are held in Serenity Hall.  
Entrance on 26<sup>th</sup> Ave / School Yard

## The Cenacles of Life



The Cenacles of Life are prayer groups that pray as the Blessed Mother and the Apostles prayed in the Upper Room, awaiting the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. They pray – as should all Catholics – to stop the killing of the unborn, sick, and disabled. The goal of the Prayer Group: restore respect for the sanctity of life which has so frighteningly eroded in our country and world. Please come and pray with St. Mel's Cenacle of Life: Thursdays @ 11:00 AM in the church.

I Cenacoli della Vita sono gruppi di preghiera che pregano come prepararono la Madonna e gli Apostoli nel Cenacolo, in attesa dello Spirito Santo a Pentecoste. Pregano—come dovrebbero tutti i cattolici—per fermare l'uccisione di nascituri, malati e disabili. L'obiettivo del gruppo di preghiera: ripristinare il rispetto per la santità della vita che ha così spaventosamente eroso nel nostro Paese e nel mondo. Per favore, venite a pregare con il Cenacolo della Vita di San Mel: giovedì alle 11:00 in chiesa.

## *PARISH BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP*

St. Luke Church

**Meets every 1st Tuesday  
of every month.**



This group provides emotional assistance for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

If you are interested in participating in these meetings **you must** contact **Sister Theresa** at **(718) 746-8531**.

Sister also offers individual Bereavement Counseling Sessions where needed. Please remember to pray for all who are grieving the loss of loved ones.



# DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

## Events

### VOCATION OFFICE



#### *Fraternitas*

Middle School students join us for prayer, catechesis, and sports. Located at Cathedral Prep, Elmhurst 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Sat.

**Sept 28, Dec 21, Feb 1, Mar 29, May 10**



#### *Jeremiah Project*

High School - College Vocation Discernment Retreat weekend for young men. Located at Saint Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers 5 p.m. Fri. - 1 p.m. Sun.

**Sept 20 - 22, Nov 22 - 24, Jan 24 - 26, April 11 - 13**



#### *Project Andrew*

An evening of prayer, dinner, and conversation for young men to learn more about the priesthood.

- **Oct 12 - 6 pm** at St. Rita, East New York
- **Oct 26 - 5 pm** at St. Mary Star of the Sea, Far Rockaway
- **Nov 16 - 5 pm** at Queen of Angels, Sunnyside
- **Dec 7 - 4 pm** at Our Lady of Grace, Gravesend
- **Jan 18 - 5 pm** at Sacred Heart, Bayside
- **Feb 8 - 5 pm** at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Brooklyn
- **Mar 22 - 5 pm** at St. Fidelis, College Point
- **April 5 - 5 pm** at Regina Pacis, Brooklyn
- **May 17 - 4:30 pm** at St. Thomas the Apostle, Woodhaven
- **June 14 - 5 pm** St. Therese of Lisieux, Brooklyn



Fr. Chris Bethge  
Vocation Director



718-827-2454



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



Vocations Brooklyn Diocese



[brooklynpriests](https://www.instagram.com/brooklynpriests)





# To Whom Shall We Go?

“You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. John 6:67-68 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 6:60-69



|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| O | A | G | J | E | S | U | S | R | A | K | T | K | A | A |
| H | V | B | A | C | K | F | M | J | N | C | N | D | V | H |
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GIVES

ETERNAL

LEAVE

GRUMBLING

TURN

KNOW

BETRAY

BACK

TEACHING

LIFE

BELIEVE

FOLLOW

WORDS

JESUS

HARD



**Liturgical Ministries - Ministers of Hospitality (Ushers),  
Mass Planners, Sacristan (Sexton), Liturgical Environment  
Ministers (Decorators), and Masters of Ceremony (MCs)**

Most people think of Liturgical Ministers as those we can see and hear and yet much of the preparations are done out of sight by many unsung heroes so to speak.

In addition to the important liturgical ministries we've considered in recent weeks, there are a few others worth mentioning:

Ministers of hospitality (ushers) primarily offer a warm welcome to people as they arrive for the liturgy. They might also invite people to bring up offerings at Mass, place out bulletins, open windows, prepare collection baskets, and so on.

Mass planners, following the guidelines or rubrics of the Church, meet with the pastor or parish staff months in advance to help better express the various themes of the liturgical celebration or season.

Sacristans attend to the vestments, vessels, and appointments that are used at Holy Mass, while sextons might have the additional role of attending to the upkeep of the entire church building and grounds.

Liturgical environment ministers use their creative gifts to decorate the worship space and beyond for specific celebrations or feasts as well as the liturgical seasons throughout the year. Advent should look different from Ordinary Time, as Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion should be recognizable as distinct from a regular Lenten Sunday.

Finally, the master of ceremony (MC), particularly at more solemn celebrations, must ensure that everything is prepared properly and all ministers are aware of their roles to allow for a moving and prayerful celebration.

*Egeria Inserts are an endeavor of [egeriathepilgrim.com](http://egeriathepilgrim.com)*





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*St Mel Parishioner*  
917-519-4560

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Birthdays • Funeral Luncheons  
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Items ★ Domestic & Imported Cheeses  
Boars Head Cold Cuts  
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163-07 29th Ave., Flushing

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