“Queen of Peace is a parish of many cultures, living one Catholic faith, united to glorify God, and striving to provide a spiritual home for the members of our diverse community.”

Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Hardiman, - Pastor  
Rev. James L. Tighe Pastor Emeritus  
Rev. Michael Ugbor Parochial Vicar  
Deacon Gregory Bizzoco Jr.  
Deacon Jose M. Fernandez  

Emergency Sick Calls Anytime

RECTORY  
141-36 77th Avenue, Flushing, NY 11367  
718 380-5031 Fax 718 969-2025  
Web Site In development  
E-mail  
queenofpeacerectory@outlook.com  
Mrs. Arleni Guerrero,  
Administrative Assistant  
Plant Manager: Miguel Guaman  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
Deacon Gregory J. Bizzoco Jr.,  
718- 380-3966

In addition to our Parish Office, the rectory is also home to the Priests of the parish. Please respect their home by calling in advance to make an appointment with a priest or deacon

Catholic Cemeteries 718 894-4888

National suicide prevention hotline 24/7  
1-800-273-8255  
Samaritans NYC 24/7  
212-673-3000  

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Our Lady, Queen of Peace, Pray for us

3rd Sunday of Advent

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE  
Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM  
Sunday: 8:30AM & 11:00AM

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE  
8:30 AM Monday- Saturday  
Mass in Spanish every Friday

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS  
Monday to Friday:  
9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM  
1:00PM TO 4:00PM  
Office closed Saturday & Sunday

LEGION OF MARY  
Tuesday 10:30AM  
Parish Center

EVENING HOURS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

BAPTISMS In English at 2pm on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Baptisms in Spanish on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 2:00pm. Please call the Rectory to register.

PENANCE Confessions are heard each Saturday 4:00- 4:45. Confessions anytime by appointment.

MARRIAGES Arrangements should be made at least (9) months in advance. Please call the Rectory for an appointment with a Priest/Deacon

CARE OF THE SICK Communion is regularly brought to the sick by our Eucharistic Ministers, Deacons and Priests. Please let us know when a parishioner is unable to come to church due to serious illness or age. Anointing of the sick is celebrated on the first Saturday of each month during the 8:30 Mass.

Novenas & Rosary follow the 8:30 Mass  
Mon. Miraculous Medal  
Tues. St. Anthony  
Wed. St. Jude  
Thurs. St. Ann  
Fri. Sacred Heart  
Sat. Queen of Peace  
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA:  
Wednesdays at Noon

Eucharistic Adoration Wednesday 9AM-Noon First Friday 9AM - Noon concludes with Midday Prayer & Novena

December 15th, 2019
Some years ago, in the journal First Things, the late Fr. Richard John Neuhaus wrote that a reader had sent him a little story by the French authors Jerome Tharaud and Jean Tharaud; it is in Contes de Noël, Editions du Seuil. Here it is:

The last pilgrim had left the stable. The Virgin arranged the straw: at last the Child could sleep. But who can sleep the night of Christmas? Gently the door opens, so gently that it seems more like the wind was pushing it than a hand. A woman appears on the threshold, covered with rags. She was so old and wrinkled that you would have thought her mouth was one more deep wrinkle in a face the color of dirt. A fearful chill came over Mary when she saw her, as if a malicious fairy had come into the room. Fortunately, Jesus was asleep. The ass and the ox placidly continued munching their hay, as if there was nothing unusual, as if they had known her forever. The Virgin didn’t take her eyes off her.

The woman walked slowly, each step seeming to take centuries. She continued, the old woman, and approached the manger. Thank God, Jesus was still sleeping. How can one sleep on Christmas night? Suddenly he opened his eyelids. His mother was completely astonished to see that the eyes of the old woman and his eyes were exactly the same, they both shone with the same hope. The old woman sank down on the straw. One hand disappeared into her rags, looking for something, taking ages to find it. Mary watched her closely, still concerned. The animals watched her too, but always without surprise, as if they knew beforehand what was going to happen. Finally, after a long time, slowly, tiredly, the old woman pulls out of her clothes a little object hidden in her hand, and she gives it to the child. All the treasures of the Wise Men and the offerings of the Shepherds,
What could this present be? From where she was, Mary could not tell. She saw only the shoulders bowed down, the woman’s back, bent over from age, now bent over even more before the crib, and the Child within it. The ox and the ass watched, and were not amazed. The woman stayed bowed before the Child a long time. Finally, she arose, as if relieved from a great weight which had dragged her to the ground. Her shoulders were no longer bowed down, her head almost touched the low roof, her face seemed miraculously renewed, as if she was finding once more the vigor of her youth. She turned from the crib, smiled at Mary, and went out through the door into the dawning day. Finally, Mary could see the mysterious present. An apple, a little apple, having within it all the sin of the world, given to the baby Jesus by Eve, for it was her, the old woman, who had come to worship the Child born of her blood, who would save her from her sins. The apple of the original sin, and the sin of so many who would follow her. And the little red apple shone in the hands of the Child, as if it were the globe of the kingdom and of the new world which had just been born with the King.

Our Lady, Undoer of Knots, pray for us. God bless.

**MIDNIGHT MASS AT MIDNIGHT 12/24 preceeded by CONCERT OF CAROLS 11:15pm**

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**Bambinelli Sunday and Gaudete Sunday**

Today, in Rome, the Holy Father Pope Francis will bless the images of the Child Jesus that the faithful will bring from their home Nativity set; we will do the same here at Queen of Peace. **Gaudete** means *Rejoice!* in Latin We wear Rose colored vestments and light the rose colored candle as a sign of the nearness of Christmas.

**BLOOD CRISIS**

HELP!!! New York City is experiencing a critical shortage in the BLOOD SUPPLY at the New York Blood Center. The City’s supply of blood for hospitals has never been lower. Please consider becoming a blood donor this week. More information is available at www.nyybloodcenter.org/blood or 1-800-933-2566.

**PRAYING for PRIESTS and SEMINARIANS**

Bishop DiMarzio has asked that we pray for all priests and seminarians on every Thursday. This week we are asked to pray for Fathers Joseph Ceriello, Miguel Cervantes Parado, Joseph Castro, William Chacon Anthony Chanon and Bishop Raymond Chappetto. Also we are asked to pray for seminarians Joseph Danzi, Joseph Hung Sy Tran, Joseph Siano, Juan Camilo Herrera-Posada, Juan Jose Luna.

**CHRISTMAS MASS at 4PM December 24 and at 12 Midnight—CONCERT OF CAROLS precedes MIDNIGHT MASS at 11:15. Masses Christmas Day at 8:30 am and 11 am.**

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**CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

St Nicholas of Tolentine Catholic Academy is the Catholic elementary school affiliated with Queen of Peace Parish. It offers an exemplary and rigorous educational program and may be ideal for your child/grandchild. For more information please call the school at 718 380 1900 or visit their website http://sntschoolny.org/.

**Legion of Mary**

Did you know that the Legion of Mary is the largest apostolic organization of lay people in the Catholic Church, with about 3 million active members in 160 countries? It was founded in 1921 by Irishman Frank Duff and the object of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active cooperation in the work of the Church under the patronage of Our Lady. The Legion of Mary at Queen of Peace meets every Tuesday at 10.30 in the Parish Center. Please come and find out more about this wonderful apostolate of evangelization.

**RECONCILIATION MONDAY**

Tomorrow, December 16, 2019, our Diocese will join the Archdiocese of New York in celebrating Advent Reconciliation Monday. On this special day, all the parishes of our dioceses will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM, in preparation for the great Feast of the Lord’s Nativity. Here at Queen of Peace will have a priest available in the church for Confession from 7am to 9pm.

**RED RIBBONS OF SOLIDARITY**

Queen of Peace Parish invites you to express our solidarity with those Christians, in many nations throughout the world, who are experiencing persecution because of their religious faith. You are asked to hang a RED RIBBON on your Christmas Tree, around your home, on fences, etc. to spread an awareness of the global persecution of Christians. Please plan to keep the ribbons up through the Feast of the Epiphany, January 5.

**Queen of Peace Giving Tree**

Once again we are having our Queen of Peace GIVING TREE for the benefit of “HOUR CHILDREN” A residence where young mothers being released from prison will be reunited with their children for Christmas. The Giving Tree began on Tuesday November 19th and will end on Wednesday December 18th. **PLEASE DO NOT BRING GIFTS AFTER Wednesday December 18th, PLEASE DO NOT WRAP THE GIFTS.** Your donations in the past have been greatly appreciated and we look forward to another successful year. Thank you for your generous contributions toward this great cause.
**ADVENT PRACTICES**

Read the first two chapters of the Gospel According to Matthew with a pencil and paper (draw a line down the center paper and make two columns); note the events of the story that Matthew includes. Then read the first two chapters of the Gospel According to Luke and make notes (in the second column) of the events he includes. Look at the two columns and see what events are the same and which are unique to each of them and which events are in common.

Read the first chapter of St. Mark’s Gospel and see how different his approach to the story of Jesus: he has no Infancy Narrative. He begins with the ministry.

Read the first chapter of the Gospel according to St. John. He tells the story from “In the beginning” … before time began, before time began, before the world was created. What a beautiful and poetic chapter.

**THE HOLY FACE**

On the First Sunday of Advent we enthroned an image of the Risen Jesus known as the HOLY FACE OF MAN-OPPELLO, a donation to Queen of Peace Parish by Cor- gie Bernardo, head of the Canadian Apostolate of the Holy Face of Montepello. The image is in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel for your edification and prayer.

**Handicapped Entrance**

The 77th Road entrance to the church is almost complete as a true handicapped accessible entrance to our beautiful church. Automatic doors have been installed and a new door sill has been ordered which will make it easier for the aged or persons with disabilities to enter church without the worry of stairs.

**50/50 Raffle**

The 50/50 raffle winner for November, with a prize of $110, was won by Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Mamrosh. They have generously donated their winnings to the parish. It has been deposited to the parish Vincent de Paul Breen Caritas account, the Queen of Peace equivalent of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

On December 1, Pope Francis issued an APOSTOLIC LETTER called ADMIRABILE SIGNUM (The Enchanting Image) ON THE MEANING AND IM-PORTANCE OF THE NATIVITY SCENE.

The enchanting image of the Christmas crèche, so dear to the Christian people, never ceases to arouse amazement and wonder. The depiction of Jesus’ birth is itself a simple and joyful proclamation of the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God. The nativity scene is like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture. As we contemplate the Christmas story, we are invited to set out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman. We come to realize that so great is his love for us that he became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with him.

With this Letter, I wish to encourage the beautiful family tradition of preparing the nativity scene in the days before Christmas, but also the custom of setting it up in the workplace, in schools, hospitals, prisons and town squares. Great imagination and creativity is always shown in employing the most diverse materials to create small masterpieces of beauty. As children, we learn from our parents and grandparents to carry on this joyful tradition, which encapsulates a wealth of popular piety. It is my hope that this custom will never be lost and that, wherever it has fallen into disuse, it can be rediscovered and revived.

The origin of the Christmas crèche is found above all in certain details of Jesus’ birth in Beth-lehem, as related in the Gospels. The evangelist Luke says simply that Mary “gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn”. Because Jesus was laid in a manger, the nativity scene is known in Italian as a presepio, from the Latin word praesepium, meaning “manger”.

Coming into this world, the Son of God was laid in the place where animals feed. Hay became the first bed of the One who would reveal himself as “the bread come down from heaven”. Saint Augustin, with other Church Fathers, was impressed by this symbolism: “Laid in a manger, he became our food”. Indeed, the nativity scene evokes a number of the mysteries of Jesus’ life and brings them close to our own daily live. But let us go back to the origins of the Christmas crèche so familiar to us. We need to imagine ourselves in the little Italian town of Greccio, near Rieti. Saint Francis stopped there, most likely on his way back from Rome…

The Franciscan Sources describe in detail what then took place in Greccio. Fifteen days before Christmas, Francis asked a local man named John to help him realize his desire “to bring to life the memory of that babe born in Bethlehem, to see as much as possible with my own bodily eyes the discomfort of his infant needs, how he lay in a manger, and how, with an ox and an ass standing by, he was laid upon a bed of hay”…

This is how our tradition began: with everyone gathered in joy around the cave, with no distance between the original event and those sharing in its mystery…
Advent Calendar:
CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN FOR THE POOR

Starting on Thanksgiving Day, each day add an item, or a substitute, to a box at home preparing a food package for Christmas for a family in need. Please bring the box to Queen of Peace Church on Sunday December 22. What a great way to remember the poor at Christmas and as we prepare for the celebration of The One who invites to “Feed the Hungry.”

December 1 Macaroni and cheese
December 2 Can of Fruit
December 3 Canned Tomatoes
December 4 Can of Tuna Fish
December 5 Jar of Applesauce
December 6 Canned Yams
December 7 Can of Soup
December 8 Package of Oatmeal
December 9 Can of Carrots
December 10 Can of Green Beans
December 11 Can of Mixed Vegetables
December 12 Canned Corn
December 13 Can of Peas
December 14 Boxes of Pasta
December 15 Package of Rice
December 16 Chicken Noodle Soup
December 17 Can of Beans
December 18 Pudding Mix
December 19 Parmalat
December 20 Can of Beans
December 21 Jell-O

Food boxes will be given to the St. Nicholas of Tolentine Food Pantry for use at Christmas and during the winter.