“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.”

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

WEDNESDAY NOVENA:
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

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.

Eucharistic Adoration Wednesday 9AM-Noon First Friday 9AM - Noon concludes with Midday Prayer & Novena
A Message from The Pastor

This Tuesday is the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, perhaps the greatest philosopher and theologian the Church has ever experienced; it is also my 42nd anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.

In those days we were all ordained individually by Bishop Francis Mugavero (or Bishop John McGann for the men from the Diocese of Rockville Centre) on a day that we could choose ourselves. I had the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas as my first choice, and I was the third man ordained after Frs. Pat Frawley [my classmate since St. Teresa School] and Joe Ceriello. We all had the same thought: we had been deacons for a full year and that was long enough; we couldn’t wait to be ordained priests. 1978 was a year that had a great deal of snow in January and February and it snowed ever week from Monday to Thursday and just in time for ordinations and first Masses the weather cleared and the snow removal began.

Some men imported a choir to provide music because the parish choir wasn’t all that great; I asked the St. Pius V parish choir (the parish where I had served for a year as a deacon and where I was ordained), to do the music. St. Pius V was, and probably still is one of the poorest parishes in the diocese and located in a neighborhood that was somewhat (?) dangerous. American Blacks, Latinos, Italian and Irish, and Portuguese and Haitians, a wonderful mix of people and fond memories of all of them fill my mind as I think back to the days of “Deacon Michael” who became “Father Michael”. The very next day I celebrated my first Mass at St. Teresa in Woodside with my Mom and family and friends; I had dreamed of that day for so long.
Little did I think back then that three and a half years later I would leave those people I loved so much and head off to 20 years in diocesan administration; sounds a little like a prison sentence, no? However, I loved everything I did and do as a priest, even if some of it was distasteful or difficult. Now after pastoring St. Sebastian, St. Patrick, and now Queen of Peace I am so grateful that I am now more than 22 years a parish priest!

Fr. Karl Rahner SJ said: “The priest is not an angel sent from heaven. He is a man, a member of the Church, a Christian. Remaining man and Christian, he begins to speak to you the word of God. This word is not his own. No, he comes to you because God has told him to proclaim God’s word. Perhaps he has not entirely understood it himself. Perhaps he adulterates it. Perhaps he falters and stammers. How else could he speak God’s Word, ordinary man that he is? But must not some one of us say something about God, about eternal life, about the majesty of grace in our sanctified being; must not some one of us speak of sin, the judgment and mercy of God?”

The priest is called to speak of the Mercy of God.

Our Lady, Undoer of knots, pray for us.

God bless,
MJH

Our POWERHOUSE WEEK of PRAYER begins next Saturday at the Vigil Mass at 5pm and will end the following Saturday at the 8:30am Mass. Prayer intention sheets are available at the doors of the church and the Prayer Intentions Basket will be placed in the Sanctuary. Remember, the concept is for all the members of Queen of Peace Parish to join in prayer together for these intentions.

“Prayer does not change God, it changes us.”

Is God calling you or someone you know?

“Reform your lives! The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Are you being called to proclaim the coming of the kingdom as a priest, deacon, religious sister or brother? Contact the Vocation Office at 718-827-2454 or email: vocations@diobrook.org.

Passion Play “IT IS FINISHED”
Sunday March 15 at 3pm

We are pleased to announce that Queen of Peace will be hosting a presentation of an original theatre piece for singers and actors called “It is Finished” Glenn Mohr is an old friend and his productions are just wonderful. Mark your calendars now, you do not want to miss this!

“The Glenn Mohr Chorale is a group of singers and actors who, through the years, have become a family... united in faith and friendship. We have dedicated ourselves to bringing our music and productions to churches from Brooklyn to Boston, the great Basilica’s of Rome, where we met and performed for Blessed John Paul II and finally to the stage of Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall. It has been our mission to “touch hearts and celebrate spirit” by bringing the great stories of our faith to life in prayerful, spiritually uplifting and yes, entertaining ways.”
**Candlemas Day**

_Sunday of the Word of God_

_February 2nd, next Sunday, is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. The feast falls 40 days after Christmas and celebrates the Jewish tradition of presenting the first male child in the family to the Lord. Traditionally it is the day on which the candles used in the sacred liturgy and other celebrations in church are blessed. There is a brief ritual that is part of the blessing, in the form of a procession with candles which will take place at the start of each Mass next weekend. Every Catholic home should have two blessed candles which are used when a priest or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion brings Communion to the sick or homebound. Candles may be purchased before Mass; 2 for $5._

_Candelaria_

On Candlemas, there is a tradition of blessing images of the child Jesus in many Spanish-speaking countries; we will offer a blessing of those images next week as well for those who bring them to church.

_Anointing of the sick_

_Next Saturday, February 1st, is the First Saturday of the month; as you know it is our custom here at Queen of Peace to offer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick during the 8:30am Mass every First Saturday._

_Those who are ill in body, mind, and spirit should plan to receive this Sacrament regularly. Illness includes acute (pneumonia, cancer, Alzheimer’s, etc.) and chronic (arthritis, COPD, HIV/AIDS, or even the natural process of aging, etc.)._

**SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

_On September 30th, 2019, the Feast of St. Jerome, who translated the Bible into Latin, who famously said: “Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ,” Pope Francis issued a document on his own initiative (“motu proprio”) entitled, “He opened their minds” (Aperuit illis, in Latin). These words are taken from St Jesus appeared to His disciples on the road to Emmaus, and how “He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures Luke’s Gospel, where the Evangelist describes how the Risen”. In that Apostolic Letter, Pope Francis declared that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God”. This is more than a temporal coincidence, he explains: the celebration has “ecumenical value, since the Scriptures point out, for those who listen, the path to authentic and firm unity”. We will bless your Bibles at Mass today as we solemnly enthrone the Sacred Scriptures in church._

**OZANAM HALL NURSING HOME NEEDS HELP**

OZANAM HALL IS A Catholic Nursing Home administered by the Carmelite Sisters. Located in Bayside (4241 201st St.) is looking for 3 part-time Activity Leaders.

1. Tuesday – Saturday 1:30 to 4:30; 2. Monday – Friday 10 to 11.30 and 2 to 4; Saturday and Sunday 2 to 4:30 and 6:30 to 8:30. Please call Ms. Victoria Auriemmo 718 971 2707 or vauriemmo@ozanamhall.org.
Blessing of Throats

Monday February 3rd is the Feast of the Martyr St. Blaise (Biagio, in Italian) and our tradition in the Church is to bless throats on that day because the saint saved a child from choking to death on a fish bone. We will bless throats at the Sunday Masses next weekend in anticipation of the feast and on the feast day itself as well.

Looking Ahead

Two weeks from today is what used to be called Septuagesima Sunday, seventy days before Easter. It began and begins a sort of warm up time of about 3 weeks prior to Ash Wednesday, the actual start of the Lenten Season. Septuagesima (70), Sexagesima (60), and Quinquagesima (50), Sundays form a mini-Lent, a time to start thinking about what this Lent will be for each of us and how we will use those 40 days of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, to deepen our friendship with Jesus.

DARE TO BE HOLY

Bill Wegner from GOOD NEWS INTERNATIONAL will be with us for a pre-Lenten Parish Mission on February 22 through February 25. He will speak at all the Masses that weekend telling us all about his Mission and how we can be a part of it. Bill is an old and dear colleague whom I have brought to my previous two parishes and am happy that he is our first Parish Mission presenter!

Candles

We burn real candles on the altar for worship here at Queen of Peace and as they burn down, they have to be replaced but sometimes there is some useful candle life in the stubs. The candles have been blessed and so they should not be just thrown away. You may wish to use these candle stubs to assist your own devotional life at home; they will be placed in a basket by the baptismal font should you be interested in taking them.

Eucharistic Adoration

Every Sunday following the 11am Mass we expose the Blessed Sacrament on our altar and it remains there for Eucharistic Adoration until 3pm when we pray a Novena to St. Peregrine, patron saint of persons with cancer, followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Every Wednesday the Blessed Sacrament is exposed after the 8:30 Mass and remains on our altar until 12 Noon when we pray Midday Prayer and a Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help followed by benediction. Please join us!