

# St. Mary Star of the Sea and St. Gertrude Roman Catholic Church



1920 New Haven Ave.,  
Far Rockaway, N.Y. 11691

Phone: (718) 327-1133  
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e-mail: [info@saintsmaryandgertrude.org](mailto:info@saintsmaryandgertrude.org)

Website: [www.saintsmaryandgertrude.org](http://www.saintsmaryandgertrude.org)

## ADMINISTRATOR:

Rev. Fulgencio Gutierrez, Ext. 22

## PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. Jean Yvon Pierre, Ext. 27

## PARISH PASTORAL STAFF:

Deacon Michael C. Moss  
Deacon Adalberto Eddie Montero  
Deacon Rene Hernandez

## PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Ms. Joanne Murray, Ext. 16  
Mrs. Carmen Montero, Ext. 10

## IN RESIDENCE:

Rev. Charles H. White, Ext. 18  
Rev. Fredrick Anawonah, Ext. 17

## TRUSTEES:

Miguel Jimenez  
Lillian Virginia Roundtree

## PASTORAL COUNCIL, CHAIR:

Yvonne Hall

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE, Ext. 25

Deacon Michael Moss, Director, (917) 769-4496  
Dr. Emy Punsalan, RICA  
Ms. Estabana Nino, RICA  
Ms. Carmen Macfie, CCD  
Mrs. Susan Singh-Smith, CCD  
All children in grades 1-8 should be registered every year for Religious Education classes.

## MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Mr. Joseph R. Villadiego, Ext. 24.

## SATURDAY EVENING MASSES:

5:00 p.m., 7:30 p.m. (Spanish)

## SUNDAY MASSES:

8:15, 9:45 (Alternating English & Spanish at St. Gertrude's),  
11:30 (Spanish), 1:15

## WEEKDAY MASSES:

8:00 & 12:10—Monday thru Wednesday  
9:00 at St. Gertrude's & 12:10 at St. Mary's - Thursday  
12:10, 7:30 PM (in Spanish) - Fridays  
12:10 PM—Saturdays

## CONFESSIONS:

Saturdays at 3:30 to 4:30 PM, Mondays 7:30 to 8:30 PM  
or by appointment.

**MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA:** Mondays after the 12:10 Mass

**EXPOSITION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT:** First  
Sundays 2:30 - 3:30 PM and First Fridays 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

**BAPTISMS:** Baptisms are scheduled for the Third Saturday of each  
month in Spanish and the Fourth Saturday of each month in English.  
Parents should call for an appointment with a priest to arrange for the  
baptism of child. Birth Certificate should be presented at this time.

**MARRIAGES:** Call the rectory for an appointment with a priest at  
least 6 months prior to the wedding.

**SICK CALLS:** Emergencies - ANY TIME. Home bound - call the  
rectory

**BECOMING A CATHOLIC:** The normal way for being received  
into full communion with the Catholic Church is through the R.C.I.A.  
Adults interested in being baptized, confirmed or making first  
communion should speak with a member of the parish staff to enroll

**CORO HISPANO:** MIERCOLES 7:30 PM

**ENGLISH CHOIR:** FRIDAY 7:30 PM

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR:** SATURDAY 11:00 AM

**CIRCULO DE ORACION CARISMATICO:** JUEVES 7:30 PM

**CURSILLO DE CRISTIANDAD:** VIERNES 7:30 PM

**SANTO NOMBRE & SAGRADO CORAZON:** 4th DOMINGO  
DESPUES DE LA MISA DE LAS 11:30

**CENÁCULO SACERDOTAL:** Rosario el 4to Domingo—11:00  
A.M. en Santa Gertrudis

**Rosary Society:** 1st & 4th Sunday of month after 8:15 & 9:45 Mass

**Legion of Mary:** Spanish: Mon. 7:00 PM - Rectory; St Mary

**Legion of Mary: (St. Gertrude's)** After the 9:45am mass

**Legion of Mary:** Spanish: Sats. 10:30 AM - Rectory Basement

**St. Vincent De Paul Society:** Contact the Rectory

**Jornada Youth Group:** Fridays 8:00 PM

**Haitian Committee:** Sunday 10:30 AM

**Charismatic Prayer Group:** in English - Mondays 7:00 P.M. - 9:00  
P.M. in the School Auditorium.

**JDV Group:** Wednesdays 8:00 P.M.

**Prayer Group in English Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M. in the Church.**

**Stewardship Committee:** 2nd Sunday 2:30 P.M.

**Nigerian Committee:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the 8:15 A.M. Mass

**MASS INTENTIONS****Saturday, December 31—St. Sylvester I**

12:10 pm – Helen Sager (dec)  
 5:00 pm – Ramon Maria Ureña (dec)  
 7:30 pm – Gabriel & Anna Santiago (dec)  
 Familia de Nilo & Malou Santiago—Acción de Gracias  
 Leonida Domingo—Acción de Gracias  
 Marcelo Domingo (dec)

**Sunday, January 1—Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the God**

8:15 am – Mass for the People  
 9:45 am – (St. Gertrude) Mass available  
 11:30 am – Familia Gonzalez-Jimenez—Acción de Gracias  
 1:15 pm – Mass available

**Monday, January 2—Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen**

8:00 am – Mass available  
 12:10 pm – Seberina Polanco (dec)  
 Zoyla Diaz (dec)

**Tuesday, January 3—The Most Holy Name of Jesus**

8:00 am – Mass available  
 12:10 pm – Annie Rowan (dec)

**Wednesday, January 4—St. Elizabeth Ann Seton**

8:00 am – Mass available  
 12:10 pm – Hannah Moran (dec)

**Thursday, January 5—St. John Neumann**

9:00 am – (St. Gertrude) Mass available  
 12:10 pm – Mass available

**Friday, January 6—St. Andre Bessette**

12:10 pm – George Smith (dec)  
 7:30 pm – Mass available

**Saturday, January 7—St. Raymond of Penyafort**

12:10 pm – Thomas Valentine (healing)  
 5:00 pm – Adam Jole Halsey (healing)  
 7:30 pm – Misa available

**Sunday, January 8—The Epiphany of the Lord**

8:15 am – Mass for the People  
 9:45 am – (St. Gertrude) Mass available  
 11:30 am – Ruben De La Cruz  
 1:15 pm – Mass available

**We Are A Tithing Community Following God's Plan for Giving**

In return for the Lord's generosity, our people returned to His Church the following:

**Offertory Collection**

**1st Collection last weekend - \$4560.00**  
**2nd Collection (Catholic Charities)- \$1401.00**

**Christmas Gift to the Parish: \$2233.00**

**First Collection Same Sunday Last Year (2011):**  
**\$8396.00**

**(Parish weekly expenses average: \$8756.25)**

“Our Weekly Offering is One Way of Saying: WE BELONG to the Lord... And One Another”. What Does **YOUR** Weekly Offering Say? Pray for His Guidance! THEN Make or Renew Your Commitment to Tithing.

**Weekday Readings**

**Sun** \* Nm 6:22-27 \* Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8 \* Lk 2:16-21

**Mon** \*1 Jn 2:22-28 \* Ps 98:1-4 \* Jn 1:19-28

**Tues** \*1 Jn 2:29-3:6 \* Ps 98:1-3, 6 \* Jn 1:29-34

**Wed** \* 1Jn 3:7-10 \* Ps 98:1, 7-9 \* Jn 1:35-42

**Thurs**\* 1 Jn 3:11-21 \* Ps 100:1-5 \* Jn 1:43-51

**Fri** \* 1 Jn 5:5-13 \* Ps 147:12-15, 19-20 \* Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

**Sat** \* 1 Jn 5:14-21 \* Ps 149:1-6, 9 \* Jn 2:1-11

**MEMORIALS THIS WEEK**

*The sanctuary candle is given by Adela Mayorga.*

**2011 CHRISTMAS COLLECTION**

Bishop DiMarzio and the staff of Catholic Charities of Brooklyn and Queens send their sincerest thanks to the parishioners of St. Mary Star of the Sea and St. Gertrude Parish for their generous contributions to the Christmas Collection for Catholic Charities. Your gifts enable Catholic Charities to continue to work with the children and families of our diocese who are in need.

**COLECTA DE NAVIDAD 2011**

El Obispo DiMarzio y Caridades Católicas envían su agradecimiento a la Parroquia Santa María Estrella del Mary Y Santa Gertrudis por sus contribuciones generosas a la Colecta de Navidad de Caridades Católicas. Sus contribuciones permiten a Caridades Católicas continuar trabajando con los niños y las familias de nuestra diócesis que están en necesidad.



Eileen Barton, Roberto Bonilla, Maria Guadalupe Vasquez, Pedro Bonilla, and our faithful departed.

Mary, Mother of God



## The Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

### THE LORD BLESS YOU

The Book of Numbers sounds to contemporary ears like the title of some dry statistical treatise. But much of it is poetry or song, as can be seen from today's beautiful first reading: "The LORD bless you and keep you! / The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! / The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!"

Isn't that a great choice for the first scripture reading of the first day of the new year? It leads us into the mystery of God's appearing in our world, not in some terrifying explosion, but in kindness and peace, "born of a woman."

God comes to us as a human baby, born of a human mother, to show us that we are so much more than we tend to think we are. We are not slaves, but heirs of God. In Jesus, through Mary, God shines upon us kindly and gives us peace.

### LOOKING FOR ANGELS

Today's Gospel reading begins with the shepherds rushing "in haste to Bethlehem." We know why they were running. Angels had appeared to them in the night, a breakthrough from the world beyond the ordinary. And the shepherds responded with great excitement.

Some nine months earlier, an angel had burst into the life of the young woman Mary. That also was a breakthrough from the world beyond our world, a message from the Divinity. It was a call to Mary to see beyond the ordinary possibilities of her life. She responded with an open heart and became the Mother of God.

After the shepherds had departed, "Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." The angels also reach out to us, call to us from God. We must be alert for their call. We must listen for those messages from beyond our ordinary world. Mary can help us stay awake this year, alert and listening for God's call.

### THANK YOU

We have once again celebrated the Wonder of Christmas. We kneel in wonder as Mary & Joseph accept on our behalf the Christ Child. We join the Angels and Shepherds as we sing joy to the world, the Lord has come.

We are grateful to see many who have helped us celebrate the event which has changed the world. Our churches were beautifully decorated. We thank all who devoted their time to add to the beauty of our celebration. We also all thank all who contributed to the Christmas Flower Fund. Once again we had the outdoor Nativity Set donated by Father White and Sister Agnes White.

Music is so much a part of the Christmas Season and we are truly blessed with our music director, leaders of song and choirs. It is said that when we sing—we pray twice.

Like wise we are grateful to our sacristan and maintenance staff for their service all thru the year. We celebrate the coming of the Magi, who were non-Jews, to worship the Christ Child. Jesus is not just the Jewish Messiah but also the Savior of the whole human race.

We remember that the Magi did not come empty handed. The gold represent the treasure that we present our spiritual King. The frankincense symbolizes the time we devote to prayer and worship. The myrah represent our willingness to offer out time in service of others.

We are grateful to you, our parishioners, for your prayerful participation in our Christmas celebration. May the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph bless every family in the New Year.

On behalf of all of us, we wish you a Happy and a Blessed New Year!

Fr. Fulgencio Gutierrez  
& The Staff



**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS 2011****Given By:****In Memory Of:**

L. Paz Medina Mrs. Phyllis Adamo	Maruja Medina, Emma de - Patricia
Mr. & Mrs. Sergio Caceres Mr. & Mrs. Ariz Alvarez Mr. & Mrs. Eliseo Becerra Mr. & Mrs. Ernesto Benitez Pedro & Cristina Bonilla Carmelita P. Brazzier Rosa Castro Ms. Angelica Catano Berthe G. Faustin Faustin Paule Faustin Mr. & Mrs. Rodolfo Mendoza Joanne Murray Jackson-Boles Family Maria Rodriguez Mr. Rafael Rivera Rita Ryall Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Clarke G. Miller Mr. & Mrs. Julio Otero Agatha George Margaret Sugrue Mrs. Elaine Wilson Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Clarke Mr. & Mrs. Romero Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Cardona The Jerman Family Elizabeth Sanchez Mr. John P. Conway Mrs. Thomas Briza McGuire Families Maria R. Domerson Mr. & Mrs. Claude Rocourt Julia A. Waldron Rita Figueroa Zoila Hernandez George & Sandra Fogg Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Michaelson Ms. Daisy Rodriguez Mr. & Mrs. Jose Rodriguez Philomene Joseph Maria Paredes Thelma Bryan Mr. & Mrs. J. Mathieu Mr. Colin Blackman Ms. Maria Lourdes Santiago Charmange V. Harris Rene y Olivia Hernandez Shermaine Margaret Stewart-Lester Zoila Herrera Rivera & James Lemus C. Capone	Deaced Members of Adamo, Barry, Lasser Family Caceres Family  Emmanuel & Jean Pierre Gary  Emmanuel Faustin  Flossie Williams & Rosa Newton &  Antonia Rivera Thomas Ryall, Jr.  Leana Miller  James Sugrue Louise Marson  Adriana Munoz  Elena Calderon, Araldo Hungria Anne & John Conway and siblings The Briza, Lyndon, O'Hallorsn and  John & Mary Waldron The Felix Family  Martha Fogg Henry E. B. Michaelson Jose "Moyo" Burgos  Joseph Family Lauriano y Maria Paredes Loretta Bryan Mr. & Mrs. J. Mathieu, Sr. Eileen Blackman  Amalia Gonzales Samuel Garcia, Mildred Vasquez  Gina & Carmine Jr.

Leon Joseph Yolanda Reyes Marie E. Sylvain Gladys Velez Rosa B. Ramos Zacarias Delgado Fidelia C. Sanchez Gerard Harris Marina y Antonio Lopez Anna T. Pappas Jose & Luz Torres Christina Sosa Ms. Herminia P. Garambone Mrs. Maria ICA Sencion Maria I. Santos Mrs. Marie Fatima Jolicoeur Sylvia Rodriguez Franklin Delgado Margarette Tassy Henrietta Madubuko Curtis Turney Oscar & Isabel Murillo Cristina Hernandez Wilfredo & Lisbeth Coronado Maria Fuentes Charlotte M. Ingraham Maria De La Cruz Lopez Willy & Sandra Sanon Marta Lopez Sebastiana Martinez Yolanda A. Baluyot Yanira Vinueza Norma Alli Manuel Velasquez Family McCabe Ernesto L. Cortes Miguel Mena Federico and Blanca Martinez Lorena Garcia Mayorga Hugo O. Larios Jorge y Linda Echeverria Rony Alfaro Celmira Cortez Mario y Ceci Fernandez Dilsia Roper Polanco Alyeda Damas Francisco Flores Arnold G. Robles Maribel Lopez Maria Riggs Andrea Zambrano Mrs. Thomas McMorrow Carlos & Gilma Serpas Ms. Claire Borgella Siria Capellan Betty A. Leon	Francisco Valverde  Ruben Jose Bagasoa Josefa Hernandez  Vaugh Harris  Pappas & LaShure Families  Maria Cruz  Evelyn Vega  Reginald Guerrier Dennis Achusim  Mazie & Cecil Paris  William Sanon  Pacita Baluyot  Moren Chanamen  The James & Monica McCabe  Margarita Cortes  Larios Family  Catherine Roper & Seberina  Antonio Robles  Deceased family and friends  McMorrow family and relatives Trancito Serpas Souls in Purgatory  Mary Leon
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**Will continue next week...**

39th Annual March of Life  
Monday, January 23rd, 2012  
Washington, DC  
Bus from Rockaway

Bus from St. Francis de Sales Church  
(Beach 129th Street and Rockaway Beach Blvd.)

Leaves immediately after the 6:30 AM Mass.

Requested donation for the trip: Age 17 & up: \$35, Age 16 & under: No charge (Young people and families are especially encouraged to take part in the Rally & March for Life!)

Reserve a seat by Friday, January 20th!

Contact: Rita Hayden/St. Francis—718-570-7908 (cell or Rita Sweeney/St. Rose Rectory—718-634-7394

The Preborn Need US to be Their Voice!

### **EL DIEZMO—EL REPORTE DE LAS OFRENDAS**

**Domingo Pasado: \$4560.00**

**Segunda Colecta: (Caridades Católicas) \$1401.00**

**Regalo de Navidad a la Parroquia: \$2233.00**

**Mismo Domingo Hace un Año: \$8396.00**

**Un Promedio de Gastos Semanales: \$8756.25**

Si usted es nuevo en nuestra parroquia, puede hacerse miembro oficial de Santa María llenando una tarjeta de inscripción que está disponible en el vestíbulo de la Iglesia. Que Dios les bendiga!

### **NUESTRO AGRADECIMIENTO...**

Una vez más hemos celebrado la Maravilla de la Navidad. Nos arrodillamos con maravilla mientras María y José aceptan de nuestra parte al Niño Jesús. Nos unimos a los Ángeles y Pastores mientras cantamos con alegría al mundo, el Señor ha venido.

Les estamos muy agradecidos a todos los que nos han ayudado a celebrar el evento que ha cambiado al mundo.

Nuestras iglesias fueron maravillosamente decoradas. Les agradecemos a todos aquellos que dedicaron su tiempo para embellecer nuestras celebraciones. También le damos las gracias a todos los que contribuyeron al Fondo de las Flores de Navidad. Una vez tuvimos en el jardín el pesebre el cual fue donado por el Padre White y a la Hermana Agnes White.

La música también es una parte muy importante de la Temporada de Navidad y estamos realmente bendecidos por tener nuestro director de música, los líderes de música y los coros. Se dice que cuando cantamos — rezamos dos veces.

También le estamos agradecidos a nuestra sacristán y al personal de mantenimiento por todo su servicio durante el año. Celebramos la venida de los Reyes Magos, quienes no eran judíos, a adorar al Niño Jesús. Jesús no es sólo el Mesías sino también el Salvador de toda la raza humana.

Recordamos que los Reyes Magos no llegaron con las manos vacías. El oro representa el tesoro que presentamos a nuestro Rey espiritual. El incienso simboliza el tiempo que dedicamos a la oración y la adoración y el mirra representa nuestra buena voluntad de ofrecer nuestro tiempo al servicio de otros.

Y por supuesto les estamos muy agradecidos a ustedes nuestros feligreses por su fiel participación en nuestra celebración de Navidad. Que la Santa Familia de Jesús, María y José bendiga a cada familia en el Año Nuevo.



De parte de todos nosotros, le deseamos a usted y a su familia un Feliz y Bendecido Año Nuevo.

Padre Fulgencio Gutierrez  
y el personal

María, Madre de Dios



## **Santa María, Madre de Dios**

### **EL SEÑOR TE BENDIGA**

El Libro de Números suena, a oídos contemporáneos, como el título de algún aburrido tratado estadístico. Pero gran parte contiene poesías o cánticos, como podemos ver en la bellísima primer lectura de hoy: “El Señor te bendiga y te proteja / haga resplandecer su rostro sobre ti y te conceda su favor / Que el Señor te mire con benevolencia y te conceda la paz”.

¿No es una excelente elección para la primera lectura del primer día del año nuevo? Nos lleva al misterio de la aparición de Dios en nuestro mundo, no en una explosión aterradora, sino en la bondad y la paz, “nacido de una mujer”.

Dios viene a nosotros como un bebé humano, nacido de una madre humana, para mostrarnos que somos mucho más de lo que pensamos. No somos esclavos, sino herederos de Dios. En Jesús, por María, Dios resplandece sobre nosotros con benevolencia y nos da la paz.

### **BUSCÁNDO ÁNGELES**

La lectura del Evangelio de hoy comienza con los pastores yendo “a toda prisa hacia Belén”. Sabemos por qué corrían. Los ángeles se les habían aparecido durante la noche, una aparición desde el mundo más allá de lo ordinario. Y los pastores respondieron con gran entusiasmo.

Unos nueve meses antes, un ángel había aparecido en la vida de la joven María. Eso también fue una aparición del mundo más allá de nuestro mundo, un mensaje de la Divinidad. Era un llamado a María para que mirara más allá de las posibilidades ordinarias de su vida. Ella respondió con el corazón abierto y se convirtió en la Madre de Dios.

Luego de que los pastores se retiraron, “María guardaba todas estas cosas y las meditaba en su corazón”. Los ángeles también tratan de llegar a nosotros, nos llaman a Dios. Debemos estar atentos a su llamado. Debemos escuchar aquellos mensajes de más allá de nuestro mundo ordinario. María puede ayudarnos a estar despiertos este año, atentos y escuchando el llamado de Dios.