**Parish Mass Intentions**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18th, 2023**

 5:00 PM  For the People of the Parish

 **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19th, 2023**

 7:30 AM LOWER CHURCH – MESSE CRÉOLE

 Repos de l’âme de Arthur V. Calixte et de Marie

 Helene Paul – par leur fille Marlaine Augustin

10:00 AM   UPPER CHURCH– ENGLISH MASS

 Repose of the Soul of Emri Emanus – by her

 daughter Mariana Emanus

11:00 AM   LOWER CHURCH – MISA ESPANOL

 For the People of the Parish

1:00 PM   UPPER CHURCH – MESSE CRÉOLE

 Action de grace anniversaire de naissance de

 Rosette Jean – par Angie Dostaly

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20th, 2023**

7:30 AM No Mass Intentions

9:00 AM No Mass Intentions

 **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21st, 2023**

7:30 AM No Mass Intentions

9:00 AM No Mass Intentions

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd, 2023**

7:30 AM No Mass Intentions

9:00 AM No Mass Intentions

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 2023**

7:30 AM No Mass Intentions

 9:00 AM Repos de l’âme de Rev. Joachim Robohim

 Anantua Joseph Anantua –par Bernadette Anantua

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24th, 2023**

7:30 AM  No Mass Intentions

9:00 AM  No Mass Intentions

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25th, 2023**

8:00 AM No Mass Intentions

9:00 AM­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­ Action de grace a l’Enfant Jesus de Prague –

 par Chantal Doréus

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**­MASS INTENTIONS & BREAD AND WINE OFFERINGS**

A Mass intention or Bread and Wine offerings can be requested for a loved one (living or deceased), or for a friend, or in thanksgiving to God for favors granted etc. You may request a maximum of 10 Mass intentions at once. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK ESPECIALLY***

Yvrose Auguste, Giselle Beausoleil, Georgette Charles, Kenneth Culajay, Amina Joseph, Andre Innocent, Bob Johnson, Fleurisca Lexius

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 ***PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL WHO HAVE RECENTLY DEPARTED ESPECIALLY:***

 *Jerry Bien-Aimé*

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SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The commandment of Jesus with which today’s Gospel ends is a bit shocking: “So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Surely Jesus asks too much here. No human being can be perfect in the way that God is perfect. The shock of this commandment is intensified by what has come before it--some of Jesus’s most demanding teachings: not retaliating when attacked, giving to those who ask, and loving our enemies.

 How could any person possibly be perfect in doing these things? But we have no indication that Jesus does not mean what he says here. Indeed, with regard to loving our enemies Jesus draws a direct parallel between how God acts and how we are to act. Just as God does not discriminate in bestowing the goods of nature between those who love God and those who do not, so too we should not discriminate between friends and enemies when doing good. This may not seem to the world to be an obvious path to happiness and prosperity, but it is undeniably the way of God.

In light of Jesus’ command to be perfect as God, Paul reminds us in the second reading of two things that are important to remember as we seek to follow the teachings of Jesus. First, though these teachings may make us look foolish in the eyes of others, they embody the deep wisdom of God. Second, we are not left without help in striving to live these teachings; we have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us to aid us. We may well fail in living out Jesus’ teachings perfectly, but we will surely fail to live them out at all if we decide beforehand that they are impossible.

Holy God, you bestow your blessings on all people. Help us to imitate your love: Bless our enemies and those who wish to hurt us; convert their hearts and ours, so that we might live together in peace. Amen.

**Vocation**

“Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against any of your people. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Are you being called to serve the Lord and others in the consecrated life or priesthood? Contact the Vocation Office at 718-827-2454 or email: vocations@diobrook.org

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**YOUR WEEKLY GIFT TO GOD**

**SUNDAY ENVELOPES & COLLECTIONS**

**Sunday, February 12th:**

 **Regular Contributions** $5,455

 Online Contributions 335

**** Weekly budget** 10,525

 **Difference $ -4,735**

\***Give to God with love by placing your gift inside the** offering envelopes. May God continue to bless you.

**Donation Statements**

We greatly appreciate your generosity to our parish over the past year. Please call the rectory office at **718-462-0223** if your total contribution for 2022 is **$250** or more to request a donation statement. We are thankful to you for all that you do.

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Please be aware that the rectory office will be closed on **Monday, February 20, 2023** in observance of Presidents’ Day

**SPECIAL VOLUNTARY COLLECTION FOR SYRIA AND TURKEY**

Dear Parishioners:

At the request of Most Reverend Bishop Robert Brennan of the Diocese of Brooklyn, a second voluntary collection will be taken this weekend at all the Masses for our Brothers and Sisters in Syria and Turkey who have been affected by the devastating earthquake on February 6, 2023. We are asking that you continue to pray for them and to be generous in your donation to this collection by supporting a good cause.

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**Palms Are Needed**

Please remember to bring your palms from last year to the Lower Church during the weekend Masses by Sunday, February 19th, 2023.

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**Ash Wednesday**

**Ash Wednesday, February 22nd**, marks the beginning of the season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting, which prepares us for Christ’s glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday. Ashes will be distributed during the following Masses:

* 7:30 AM: Mass & Imposition of Ashes (English)
* 9:00 AM: Mass & Imposition of Ashes (Creole)

**Ashes will not be given in the Rectory during office**

**hours**. **To receive ashes, you must attend Mass**. Please note that Ash Wednesday is a day of **fasting** for those ages 18-59 and a day of **abstinence from meat** for those ages 14 and up.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Stations of the Cross**

Please join your parish family on Friday, February 25th, and on every Friday of Lent:

¨ STATIONS OF THE CROSS: UPPER CHURCH: 7 PM

¨ LE CHEMIN DE LA CROIX: LOWER CHURCH: 7 PM

¨ EL CAMINO DE LA CRUZ: UPPER CHURCH: 8 PM

Please note that those age 14 and up, who are of sound body, are called to observe the tradition of abstinence from meat on each of the Fridays of Lent.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION

Registration for Religious Education is ongoing. Please contact the Faith Formation Office at 646-664-6738 or via email: stjeromeff@outlook.com to make an appointment to register. You can also register online at: [www.givecentral.org/stjb-ff](http://www.givecentral.org/stjb-ff).

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**The Pope's Monthly Intentions For 2023**

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month. February: **For Parishes**

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

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**St. Catherine of Genoa-St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Academy**

St. Catherine of Genoa-St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Academy is located on the corner of Avenue D and East 45th Street. The academy offers a welcoming, safe, faith-filled environment where children from grades Pre-K to 8 can learn and grow to their potential. Call the academy at (718) 629-9330 for additional information. Financial aid is available.

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**Readings for the Week for the Week of February 19**

**Monday**: Sir 1:1-10; Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5; Mk 9:14-29
**Tuesday**: Sir 2:1-11; Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40; Mk 9:30-37
**Wednesday**: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14, 17; 2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
**Thursday**: Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6; Lk 9:22-25
**Friday**: Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15
**Saturday**: Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 5:27-32
**Sunday**: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17; Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19; Mt 4:1-11

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