

# Our Lady Mother of the Church

209 Woodcliff Avenue ~ Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677 ~ [www.motherofthechurch.org](http://www.motherofthechurch.org)



## MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD ~ JANUARY 1, 2017

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Email: [judiolmc@yahoo.com](mailto:judiolmc@yahoo.com)  
Mr. Vito Delzotto.....*Parish Council President*  
Rev. Msgr. Cajetan Salemi.....*Pastor Emeritus*

### Mass Schedule

Monday-Friday 8:30am  
Saturday 5:30pm  
Sunday 8:30am & 10:30am

### Reconciliation

Saturday 4:30 pm to  
5:00 pm

**Holy Days: See bulletin for schedule of Masses.**

### Parish Office:

Monday - Wednesday 9:00am - 4:00pm  
Thursday and Friday 9:00am - 2:00pm

**Phone:** 201-391-2826

**Fax:** 201-391-7101

### Parish Email

[info@motherofthechurch.org](mailto:info@motherofthechurch.org)

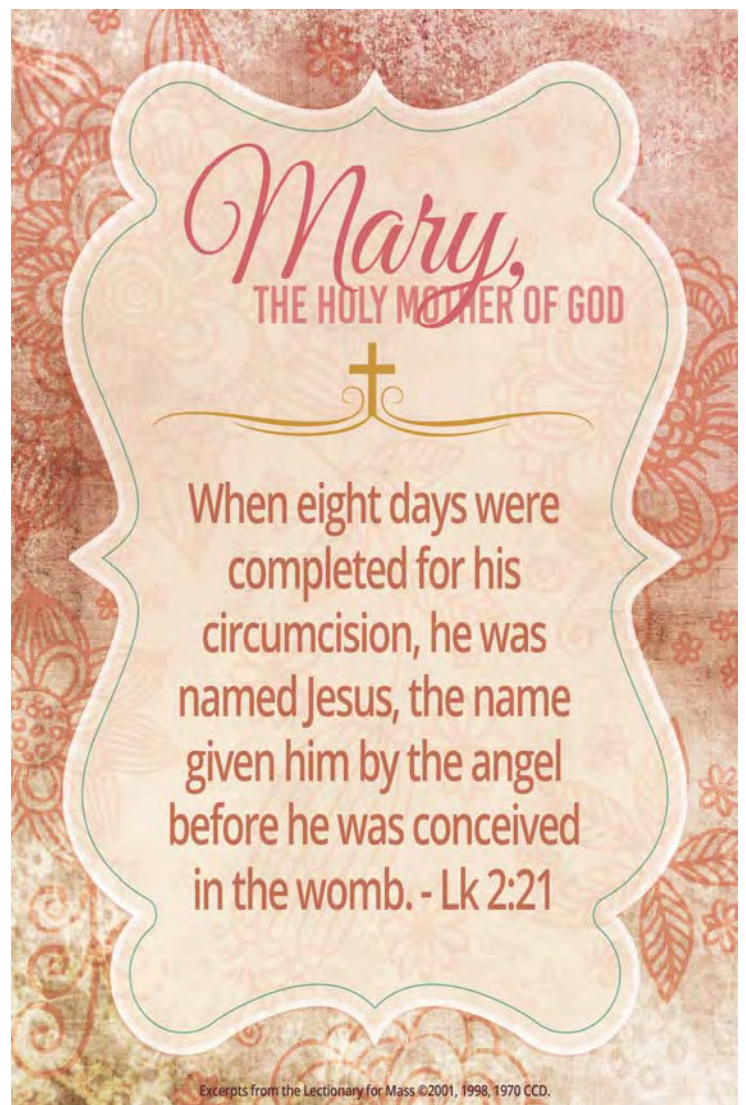
### Faith Formation Office

**Phone:** 201-391-7400

Monday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Wednesday 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

[faithformationolmc@gmail.com](mailto:faithformationolmc@gmail.com)



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

**Mission Statement:** Called by our baptism and nourished by the Eucharist, the parishioners of Our Lady Mother of the Church, acknowledge our mission to teach, share and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we create a welcoming environment, enthusiastically gather and worship to praise God, and strive to imitate the life of Jesus as we reach out beyond our own faith community.

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



On Christmas Eve Pope Francis celebrated Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, he celebrated not only for 10,000 in attendance, but also for the 1.2 billion Catholics around the world, leading them into Christmas for the fourth time since his election in 2013.

He gave a beautiful homily in which he said:

*"...the Gospel reveals a paradox: it speaks of the emperor, the governor, the mighty of those times, but God does not make himself present there; he does not appear in the grand hall of a royal palace, but in the poverty of a stable; not in pomp and show, but in the simplicity of life; not in power, but in a smallness which surprises. In order to discover him, we need to go there, where he is: we need to bow down, humble ourselves, make ourselves small. The Child who is born challenges us: he calls us to leave behind fleeting illusions and go to the essence, to renounce our insatiable claims, to abandon our endless dissatisfaction and sadness for something we will never have. It will help us to leave these things behind in order to rediscover in the simplicity of the God-child, peace, joy and the meaning of life.*

*"Jesus was born rejected by some and regarded by many others with indifference. Today also the same indifference can exist, when Christmas becomes a feast where the protagonists are ourselves, rather than Jesus; when the lights of commerce cast the light of God into the shadows; when we are concerned for gifts but cold towards those who are marginalized".*

He then added in unscripted remarks: *"This worldliness and materialism has taken Christmas hostage. It needs to be freed."*

His words reminded me of a conversation I had with a college freshman, home from college for Christmas. In one of her philosophy classes, she was asked to critique students' motives for going to college in the first place. She found that many of them didn't know, except that they wanted to make as much money as possible in the future.

## FROM THE PASTOR CONTINUED

The deepest longing within many of these young people, she said, seemed to remain unfulfilled. There is a longing, a desire, she said, that cannot be fulfilled just by material things. She saw a generation that had been swept up in the materialism that society pushes upon us.

The **deepest longing** she spoke of is within each one of us. This longing can only be satisfied in one place, by one person alone. As the Holy Father said at the conclusion of his Christmas homily:

“Let us allow ourselves also to be challenged tonight by Jesus. Let us go to him with trust, from that area in us we feel to be marginalized, from our own limitations. Let us touch the tenderness which saves. Let us draw close to God who draws close to us, let us pause to look upon the crib, and imagine the birth of Jesus: light, peace, utmost poverty, and rejection. Let us enter into the real Nativity with the shepherds, taking to Jesus all that we are, our alienation, our unhealed wounds. Then, in Jesus we will enjoy the flavor of the true spirit of Christmas: the beauty of being loved by God. With Mary and Joseph we pause before the manger, before Jesus who is born as bread for my life. Contemplating his humble and infinite love, let us say to him: thank you, thank you because you have done all this *for me*”.

This weekend we continue to celebrate the answer to our deepest longings, as we end 2016 and begin the New Year 2017 with the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God. We begin the new year with The Virgin Mary, Mother of Christ and Our Mother. She intercedes for us, that we may leave behind fleeting illusions and go to the essence, renouncing our insatiable claims, abandoning our endless dissatisfaction and sadness, leaving these things behind in order to rediscover in the simplicity of the God-child, peace, joy and the meaning of our life.

*Peace in Christ, and Happy New Year, Fr. Sean*

# MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

## Saturday

5:30 pm

## Sunday

8:30 am

10:30 am

## Monday

8:30 am

## Tuesday

8:30 am

## Wednesday

8:30 am

## Thursday

8:30 am

## Friday

8:30 am

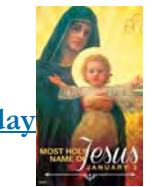
## Saturday

5:30 pm

## Sunday

8:30 am

10:30 am



## December 31

*St. Sylvester I, New Year's Eve*

Owen Fox

## January 1

*Mary the Holy Mother of God, World Day of Peace, New Year's Day*

Elaine Hanson

Yousef Mashini

## January 2

*Ss. Basil the Great & Gregory*

*Nazianzen*

Mary Mertz

## January 3

*The Most Holy Name of Jesus*

Edward Walter Strassel

## January 4

*St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*

Virginia & Richard Offer

## January 5

*St. John Neumann*

George & Peter Lutz

## January 6

*St. Andre Bessette*

John McGovern

## January 7

*St. Raymond of Penyafort*

Francesca & Gregorio Tambone

## January 8

*The Epiphany of the Lord; National Migration Week*

George J. Fusco

Chuck Gordon

## Stewardship of Treasure

### My Parish, My Family, My Responsibility

*"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." (Luke 2:19)*

Mary is the perfect role model for living a stewardship lifestyle. She listened to God and said "yes" to His invitation to be the Holy Mother of His Son. She also trusted in God's providence on a daily basis. As we start a new year, take time every day to listen to how God is calling you; trust that He has a better plan for you than you could ever imagine.

Receipts From Christmas.....\$33,814.00

Christmas Flowers to Date.....\$2,438.00



As Pastor of our wonderful parish I would like say a big Thank you to all who helped prepare and serve in our Christmas Liturgies. Our Masses were very well attended, and people left with a very positive experience, thanks to the dedication and help of many of our parishioners.

The church was decorated beautifully, both inside - thanks to Judi Quinn, Carmella Dell' Aquila, Loretta Palumbo, Maryanne Piazza, and the moms of our Faith Formation program, and out -thanks to Joe Piazza, Bruce Mautz, Kevin Darling, Chris Van Wyck, Dave Kosoff and Ryan Kelly.

Our music was outstanding at every Christmas Mass, thanks to the hard work and preparations of Domenick Panfile, with Susan Furey, Marie Ruppel, and our musicians Mario Costabile, Ted Clark, Greg Cinzio, Rich Deraney, Jackie Michaels, Nick Mastrangelo, Luke Cuesta, and of course, our Adult Choir and the Children and Teen choir, who are all simply the best!

Our ushers were also outstanding, thanks to the forethought and preparations of Tony Guarriello.

Thank you also to Bob Gentile, Joe Piazza, Frank Meredith, Catherine Sallerioli, Pete Bernich, who came in the day after Christmas to count and deposit the very generous Christmas collections that we received.

*For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven."*

*Ecclesiastes 3:11*

### "A time to be healed"

**Parish sick list:** Dorothy Burke, Colin Burns, Michael Bussanich, Rosa Dicapua, Jennifer Hartmann, Thomas Kneeshaw, Patricia Martin, McKenna Grace, Carol Schmidt, Barbara Strambi, Rose Ann Tripaldi, Eric Vanderleif, and Bryce Werner

### "A time to mourn"

**Deceased of the Parish:** Vincenzina Mazza Greco—  
Mother of Silvana Maugeri

### "A time for war and a time for peace"

Tyler Aiello, Ryan Brady, Lcpl. Joseph Ryan and Seamus Ryan

*Amen.*

# JANUARY 1, 2017



Thank you to all the Soup Kitchen Bakers, Servers and Casserole Makers! Mark your calendars for 2017: March 4<sup>th</sup>, June 3<sup>rd</sup> and Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please contact Deacon Stan for casseroles [stanfedison@aol.com](mailto:stanfedison@aol.com) or Pat Keenaghan [patkeenaghan@yahoo.com](mailto:patkeenaghan@yahoo.com) to help cook, bake or serve. *"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;"* Matthew 25:35

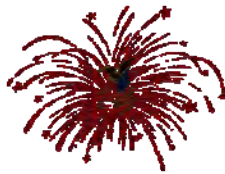


## St. John's Academy News!!!

*"The Lord bless you and keep you."  
(Numbers 6:24)*

**From the St. John's Academy family, may your new year be filled with many blessings.**

**Thank you for your support of our parish school.**



## Happy 2017

*St. John's Academy will reopen from Christmas break on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.*

### Celebrating Baptism



**13th Annual Baptism Reunion Mass**  
**Sunday, January 15, 2017**  
**10:30 am Family Liturgy**

We invite all families of children baptized at our parish during the past year to attend! Please call Judi in the Parish Office at (201) 391-2826 or at [judiolmc@yahoo.com](mailto:judiolmc@yahoo.com) if you have any questions. There will be a reception after Mass in McCarthy Center. All parishioners welcome!

### Search for the Longest Married Couple in the U.S.

The search is underway for the longest married couple in the U.S. Do you think you know who they are? Maybe it's your parents...grandparents...that nice couple who live down the street... Nominating a couple is easy! Just send their names, wedding date and where they live and your contact information to: [wwmelm-c2017@gmail.com](mailto:wwmelm-c2017@gmail.com) Nominations accepted until January 8, 2017. Winners will be announced February 2017 to celebrate World Marriage Day, nominate a couple you know today!

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn before the Blessed Sacrament for the month of January in memory of



**Rosemary Lukac**

Requested by Andy, Claudia, Ann, Andrew, Jr. & Rosary

### Wedding Anniversaries

If you are celebrating a wedding anniversary and would like a Papal Blessing please contact Judi in the Parish Office for information on how to do so. If you would like to be acknowledged at Sunday Mass, please let us know in anticipation.

The Archdiocese takes very seriously any and all allegations of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy, religious and lay staff of the Archdiocese. We encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct to inform us immediately so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse. Individuals who wish to report an allegation of sexual misconduct may do so by calling the Archdiocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection at (201) 407-3256.

# FAITH FORMATION



## Calendar for January

- Sun, Jan 1, 2017 Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, **Holy Day of Obligation**
- Wed, Jan 4, 2017 3:45 pm to 5:00 pm Faith Formation Classes Grades 1-6, *Epiphany*
- Wed, Jan 11, 2017 3:45 pm to 5:00 pm Faith Formation Classes Grade 1-6, *Baptism of Our Lord*
- Sat, Jan 14, 2017 **10:00 am Grade 2 First Reconciliation**
- Wed, Jan 18, 2017 3:45 pm to 5:00 pm Faith Formation Classes Grade 1-6, *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*
- Wed, Jan 25, 2017 3:45 pm to 5:00 pm Faith Formation Classes Grade 1-6, *Conversion of St. Paul*

## Faith Formation Greeting the New Year: Blessing our Homes

*“The three wise men, Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar followed the star of God’s Son who became human two thousand sixteen years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us and all who enter throughout the new year.”*

At home you can adopt this simple custom in your family. Gather as a family on New Year’s Day to ask God’s blessing on our homes and those who live in or visit the home. Use chalk to write above the door’s entrance: **20+C + M + B +17** while saying the above blessing. (Children can make a banner and attach with tape). The letters have two meanings, the initials of the magi and they also abbreviate: “Christus mansionem benedicat.” = May Christ bless this house, a brief prayer that can be repeated with comings and goings.

## Grade 2 Parent Meeting, Wednesday 4:00 pm

Please gather in the Church with your child for First Reconciliation Preparation at 3:45 pm. This is a workshop/preparation. RSVP to [faithformationolmc@gmail.com](mailto:faithformationolmc@gmail.com)

## First Reconciliation

**Saturday, January 14 at 10:00 am**

THANK YOU for taking a Lamb card to remember our second graders as they prepare for their First Reconciliation, a sacrament filled with the Healing Love of Christ. Please continue to pray for them and their families for Saturday Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Travelling Prayer Cross

Our Travelling Prayer Cross is available to take home for a week! It will be given out each week at the end of class. This is a way to foster family prayer and praying for one another as a family.

## Question of the Week? Win a Gift card to DAIRY QUEEN! All can enter!

This week’s question: *What are the three gifts the Magi brought Baby Jesus?*

Prior week’s answer: Epiphany, means God manifested with us, the Son of God is revealed to us on earth. Often called the Feast of the Three Kings, the magi, we think of the story of Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar bringing the Christ Child gifts. This homage shows the world that God came to us and we respond. Congratulations to Luke K. Gr. 2 last week’s winner. To enter this week’s raffle, submit your answer along with your name and address by email to [faithformationolmc@gmail.com](mailto:faithformationolmc@gmail.com) by 3pm on Wednesday Jan. 4 or when you come to class. *All correct answers will be entered in a raffle for a gift card to Dairy Queen.*

## Condolence Cards

Help “Comfort the sorrowful”, one of the spiritual works of mercy, by making a card for Fr. Siffredus, whose mother, Sara Pia, went home to God last month. Please have the children make cards and put them in the labeled basket in the lobby. You can include a personal Spiritual Bouquet listing the number of Our Fathers, Hail Marys, Glory Be, Masses and Holy Communion you would like to offer for her. Thank you!



**Pope Francis Says :** “According to tradition, the wise men were sages, watchers of the constellations, observers of the heavens in a cultural and religious context which saw the stars as having significance and power over human affairs. The wise men represent men and women who seek God in the world ... to have a personal encounter with the true God.” Homily 1/6/15.