

Our Lady Mother of the Church

209 Woodcliff Avenue ~ Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677 ~ www.motherofthechurch.org



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ DECEMBER 3, 2017

Fr. Sean Manson.....*Pastor*
Email: seanolmc@gmail.com
Fr. Siffredus Rwechungura.....*Parochial Vicar*
Mr. Stan Fedison.....*Deacon*
Mrs. Patricia Keenaghan.....*Director of Rel. Ed.*
Email: faithformationolmc@gmail.com
Ms. Deborah DiPiazza.....*Faith Formation Aide*
Mr. Domenick Panfile.....*Director of Music*
Ms. Judi Quinn.....*Administrative Secretary*
Email: 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

Faith Formation Office

Phone: 201-391-7400

Monday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Wednesday 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

faithformationolmc@gmail.com



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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



Thanksgiving is already over, and we are, believe it or not, already in December. The malls, the commercials, the decorations, our mailbox and our inbox already point to Christmas. But before getting ahead of ourselves, the Church invites us to a serious preparation for this Great Feast of the Nativity of Christ Our Lord. This preparation will begin today, the First Sunday of Advent.

'Advent' means arrival or coming. St. Bernard tells us that there are three comings of the Lord. The third lies between the other two. It is invisible, while the other two are visible.

In the First Coming, he took our flesh, and was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem. He dwelt among us; his divinity was eclipsed by his humanity. He came in poverty and weakness; he was not recognized, not accepted. He himself testifies that those who saw him hated him.

The Second Coming will not be like that, for he will come in glory and majesty on the clouds, at the end of time, and all will see him, every knee will bend. This second coming will be experienced by all, both the living and the dead: for the living, either at the moment of death or at the Parousia; and for our departed brothers and sisters at the Last Judgment.

Advent has two parts, and we need both of them. The first is a preparation not for Christmas, but for the Second Coming. All the readings of the liturgy point to the last things, inviting us to live sober and alert, full of expectation and hope at the coming of the Lord. We are invited to be vigilant, to keep watch. 'Stay awake', 'keep watch', the Scriptures will tell us, urging us to live in expectancy and hope. This hope can make you, for example, wake up in the middle of the night and pray, as many will do in the first week of Advent. Why not try it? Set the alarm for 3:00am, get up, wash your face, and sit down in silence to pray. You don't have to say much, in fact you don't have to say anything at all; just wait in hope for the Lord. Pray for five, ten or fifteen minutes; then go back to bed. You'll be surprised how refreshed you are in the morning.

The second part of Advent -the Novena, from December 17 to the 24- prepares us to celebrate the First Coming, Christmas. Not only as a memory of what happened two thousand years ago, but as an event that continues to occur for us now.

The third, the intermediate coming, which St. Bernard referred to, is a hidden one. Because it lies between the other two, it is like a road on which we travel from the First Coming to the Second. This road is travelled by us every day of our lives. As we travel the road between the First and the Second Coming, Christ comes again, invisibly. He can only be seen by the elect.

This third coming of Christ occurs in our everyday life, many times in the moments and places we would least likely expect it. Christ comes in our family, at work, at school, when we go to bed and when we rise, when we travel abroad and we are at home. May Advent help us to welcome the coming of the Lord in our lives.

We begin Advent today, and we can continue this Tuesday December 5th at the lighting of the Town Christmas Tree. I invite all youth and children of the parish to come to the Church at 5:45pm to rehearse some Christmas Carols, and then on to the Tree Lighting at 6:30pm.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

7:00 pm

Friday

8:30 am

12:00 pm

Saturday

5:30 pm

Sunday

8:30 am

10:30 am

December 2

Michael Samiljan

December 3

First Sunday of Advent

Kevin O'Brien (1st Anniversary)

Joyce & Peter Locketell

December 4

St. John Damascene

Mary Mertz &

Dinko Picinic

December 5

People of the Parish

December 6

St. Nicholas

Vincent Downes

December 7

St. Ambrose of Milan

Sara Pia

Maria Busanic

December 8

Immaculate Conception of the Virgin

Mary

Sara Pia

Vincenzina Greco Mazza

December 9

Edward G. Klein

December 10

Second Sunday of Advent

Joseph DiBella

Anthony Merlino



Stewardship of Treasure

My Parish, My Family, My Responsibility

"Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come." (Mark 13:33)

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. Our lives are busy, many of us are planning our time - our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to what God is saying to you.

Receipts From Last Week.....\$6,480.00

Confirmation Retreat

The Confirmation Class of 2018 will have their Retreat on Saturday December 9th. Candidates, parents and Sponsors will meet at the parish facility for a retreat led by Fr. Sean and Mario Costabile with the Array of Hope Ministry. The retreat will conclude at the Saturday 5:30pm Mass, with music and song led by Array of Hope.



Please join all the parishes in our deanery for an Advent Penance Service on December 18th at 7:30 pm at Assumption Church in Emerson. All are welcome!!!

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



Michael Pisano

Requested by Barbara Pisano

"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: Colin Burns, Michael Bussanich, Earle Connolly, Francesca DeMarco, Rosa Dicapua, Tommy Fitzpatrick, Jennifer Hartmann, Joachim Jung, Thomas Kneeshaw, Vivienne Knopp, Jessica Livingstone, Abigail Mayer, Richard Neuman, Flossie O'Sullivan, Eugenia Pqrron, Patrick Randazzo, Carol Schmidt, Barbara Toeppe, Ivan Tarabokia, Rose Ann Tripaldi, Eric Vanderleif, and Bryce Werner

"A time to mourn"

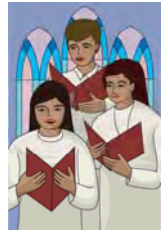
"A time for war and a time for peace"

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

Amen.

50th Anniversary Christmas Cards for Sale

We have 50th Anniversary Christmas Cards for sale after all Masses starting this weekend. They all have a painting of the church on the front and a message on the inside and a beautiful white envelope with gold foil on the inside flap ready for you to send to friends and relatives. We are selling them for \$25 a pack of 20 cards. Stop by the lobby on your way out of Mass and pick up a package!



Attention all Children and Teens of OLMC!

We would like to extend an invitation to join our Christmas choir to sing at the 4:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve. We will be holding rehearsals all on Thursday evenings: Dec. 7, 14 and 21 from 4:15 pm to 5:15 pm. Please make every effort to attend these rehearsals because we will be learning music for the prelude before the Mass as well as the music we will be singing for the Mass. This is open to all children and teens from Grades 2 through High School. We hope you will join us! Thank you!



Green Houses

SJA's 4th Graders recently visited the Meadowlands Environmental Center to learn about sustainable design. The students designed and produced their own "green" homes!



Save the Date!

Our Annual Christmas Concert is on Monday, December 18 at 6:30 pm!

SJA Gives Back

The SJA Community recently supported two special causes. In exchange for a monetary donation to fight the disease, the students wore pink for breast cancer. At our Thanksgiving prayer service, the students made contributions to childhood cancer research.



The Outreach Committee thanks all parishioners who donated to our Thanksgiving Dinner Collection. Because of your generosity 132 gift cards were purchased and distributed to OASIS and St. Joseph's Centers for Women and Children and local families. A special thank you to everyone who helped after all the Masses and to Judi Quinn-always there!



St. Nicholas Day is December 6. Yes, there really was a Christian Saint Nicholas. He lived in the country of Greece, just a couple hundred years after the birth of Christ. This day is in honor of Saint Nicholas and

his life. Saint Nicholas became a priest, and later, a Bishop of the early Catholic Church. True to the Christian concept of giving up belongings and following Christ, St. Nicholas gave up all of his belongings. He was well known for giving to needy people, especially children. There are many stories and tales of him helping out children in need. The practice of hanging up stockings originated with Saint Nicholas. As the ancient legend goes, Saint Nicholas was known to throw small bags of gold coins into the open windows of poor homes. After one bag of gold fell into the stocking of a child, news got around. Children soon began hanging their stocking by their chimneys "in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there". It wasn't until the 1800's that the spirit of St. Nicholas' life evolved into the creation of Santa Claus. And, this happened in America. Santa Claus emerged (or evolved) from the stories and legends of St. Nicholas. Santa Claus was kind and generous to children. Unlike "St. Nick", Santa Claus is largely a non-religious character.



Waterfront Nursing Home Resident Christmas Gifts

In the spirit of Christmas, we are once again asking our parishioners to purchase a holiday gift for a resident who lives in this facility. **This weekend, 12/2 & 12/3**, we ask you to please pick up a name tag which will include an item from their "wish list". Return the wrapped gift with the name tag attached along with the contents of the gift **no later than the weekend of December 13/17** to McCarthy Center. If you have any questions please contact Deacon Stan at (201) 391-5013.

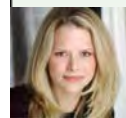


SAVE THE DATE!!!!



Jubilee Christmas Concert

On **Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 7:00 pm** a Jubilee Christmas Concert will be hosted by Our Lady Mother of the Church to conclude the 50th Anniversary. **Ciaran Sheehan**, Irish Tenor will sing with **Sarah Pfisterer**, Soprano, stars of The Phantom of the Opera. **Heather Martin Bixler**, New York Philharmonic Violinist and **Sue Anderson**, Piano Accompanist will perform Christmas music along with a varied array of beautiful heart-felt Broadway love songs. The evening will include a champagne toast during intermission while Silent Night is sung and our parish Christmas Tree is lit. A magical evening filled with the spirit of Christmas. Tickets on sale now after all Masses and in the Parish Office.



FAITH FORMATION



Calendar for December
Class begins in the church

Prayer of the Month: Apostle's Creed

- Tues, Dec 5 5:45 pm-6:45 pm Christmas Songs and Woodcliff Lake Tree Lighting at Old Mill Pond, **All invited Faith Formation, LOF and Youth JAM.**
- Wed, Dec 6 3:45 pm-5:00 pm, **Faith Formation Classes For Grades 1-6, Feast of St. Nicholas**
- Wed, Dec 13 3:45 pm-5:00 pm, **Faith Formation Classes For Grades 1-6, Feast of St. Lucy**
- Wed, Dec 20 3:45 pm-5:00 pm, **Faith Formation Classes & LOF Students, Advent Reconciliation Grades 3-6**

Thank You to All Who Participated in the Advent Festival!

A SINCERE THANKS to those who assisted and all who attended the Advent Festival. Please see the Jesse Tree decorated in the lobby with symbols of Jesus' ancestors. The children ended the day with a pageant commemorating the Nativity. A visit from Saint Nicholas was a great treat for all!

Town Christmas Tree Lighting: All Faith Formation, LOF and Youth JAM Students! Come and sing at the Tree Lighting!

All children and youth are invited to the Church on Tuesday December 5th at 5:45pm to practice Christmas Carols with Fr. Sean, and then on to the Tree Lighting at 6:30pm. The festivities will continue at Tices Corner, where Santa is going to be present.

Traveling Chalice-Pray For Vocations!

We encourage all to pray for vocations. Fr. Sean has donated a chalice to take home to pray for Vocations this week. **God bless the Bertino Family for hosting the chalice last week.** Please use this opportunity to foster family prayer and pray for vocations. **This is available to all families in the parish. Please contact** by e-mail: faithformationolmc@gmail.com to reserve for your family.

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

This week's question: **Who is the Patroness of the Americas whose Feast Day is Dec. 12th?** Prior week's answer: **Mary, the Immaculate Conception is the Patroness of the United States whose Feast Day is Dec. 8th.** **Congratulations to Mary Dragone!** To enter this week's raffle, submit your answer along with your name and address by email to faithformationolmc@gmail.com by 3pm on Wednesday or when you come to class. **All correct answers will be entered in a raffle for a gift card to Dairy Queen.**

Traveling Prayer Cross-Pray with and For Your Family

Our Traveling Prayer Cross is available to take home for a week! **God bless the Nigro Family who hosed the cross last week!** You can foster family prayer and pray for one another as a family. **This is available to all families in the parish. Please consider reserving the Cross for your family** by e-mail: faithformationolmc@gmail.com.



Pope Francis Says: "Let us look to Jesus today and say to Him in our hearts: "Remember me, Lord, now that you are in your Kingdom." Nov. 26, 2017

Liturgy of the Word for Children

OLMC is offering the Liturgy of the Word for Children during select 10:30AM Masses from October through April. We need parent/youth volunteers! You will only need to teach about 15 minutes and experience is not required. If you are interested in engaging with the children of the parish in this very meaningful way, a few times this coming school year see the sign up in McCarthy Center. Please contact Pat Keenaghan at faithformationolmc@gmail.com. Volunteers must be compliant with the Archdiocese of Newark's Safe Environment Policy.

ADVENT: PREPARING THE WAY



Our Lady's Guild Christmas Dinner

Our Lady's Guild cordially invites you to attend our Christmas Dinner. It will be held at Domani Restaurant in Hillsdale at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, December 5th. The cost is \$40 and we ask that you please bring donations of scarves, hats, gloves, mittens and socks for the needy. All men and women of the parish invited. Checks payable in advance to Our Lady's Guild by November 23rd. Bring to parish office or mail to Pat Keenaghan, 24 Highview Ave, Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677



Healing Mass at Saint Andrew's Church

A Healing Mass will be celebrated at St. Andrew's Church, 120 Washington Avenue, Westwood, on Monday, December 4, 2017, at 7:30 PM. Our guest speaker is Mary Ann Collett, an inspiring and dynamic Catholic Charismatic Evangelist. She has been in the Healing Ministry for over 30 years. She is the co-founder of Catholic Women of Zion and has traveled nationally and internationally to spread the message of the Kingdom of God. There will be an opportunity to pray for individual needs. For information please call (201) 666-5697.

Thank You All Soup Kitchen Volunteers

Thank you Bakers, Servers and Casserole Makers! for your help December 2 at St. John's Newark. Dates for 2018 will be confirmed soon. Contact Deacon Stan for casseroles stanfedison@aol.com or Pat Keenaghan pat-keenaghan@yahoo.com to help bake or serve. Thank you for your support! *"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

Retirement Fund for Religious Second Collection – This Weekend

Thousands of senior women and men religious worked for small stipends. Their sacrifices over many decades now leave their religious communities without adequate savings for retirement and elder care. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital funding for prescription medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

Advent

A Sense of the Season

December is the time for expressing the hope and strengthening the dreams that will carry us through the next year. Advent is the way we as church express our hopes. Prophetic visions, prayers and songs calling for the Lord to come do help us to hope profoundly. Advent allows us to do what most others do in December—but to see in the coming Lord the answer to our dreams. In our Catholic tradition, keeping Advent means singing the songs of expectation, of our hopes and longing, before we enter into the full-throated praise of Christmas carols.

Here are a few lines from our tradition on what Advent is about. "Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare us for Christmas when Christ's first coming is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and the heart to await Christ's second coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation." (General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, #39)

Thomas Merton, in his book *Seasons of Celebration*, reviewed the ways Saint Bernard of Clairvaux approached these comings of Christ. The first advent was Christ's birth. The other will be at the end of time. Faith in these two stimulates recognition of a third, the advent of Christ in our church now, today. Viewed from this perspective, the Advent liturgy, with its scriptures, prayers and songs, is neither a romantic return to the Old Testament while we wait for the baby at Bethlehem, nor is it an exercise in expressing hope for an ever-receding end of time. The Advent liturgy is neither nostalgic nor illusory. When we take the tradition and enter it fully, we become Advent, the people in and through whom Christ comes.

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Advent Prayer

Mercifully hear, O Lord, the prayers of your people; that as they rejoice in the coming of your only begotten Son according to the flesh, so when he comes a second time in his majesty, they may receive the reward of eternal life.