

# Our Lady Mother of the Church

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



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ DECEMBER 24, 2017

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

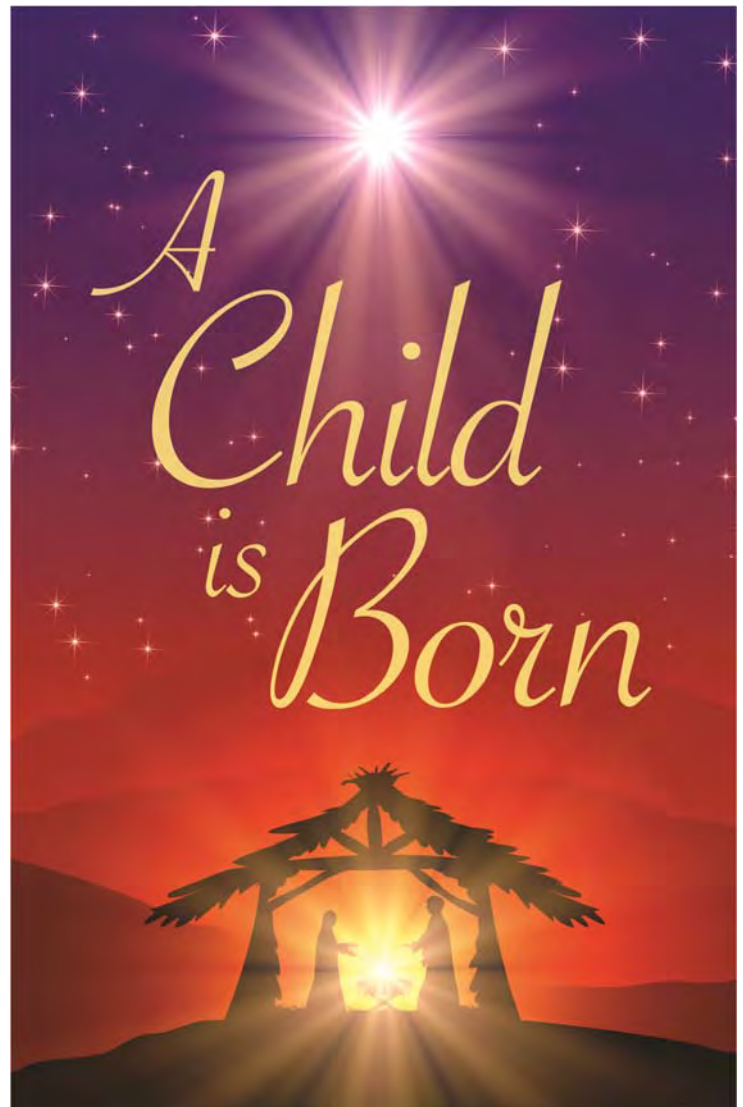
### Faith Formation Office

**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)



**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



This is the Fiftieth Christmas celebrated here at Our Lady Mother of the Church, and I want to personally welcome everyone who attends Mass here today. The world is changed by the presence of a child, a baby, born in Bethlehem. The world is changed not because it magically becomes a better place, but because there is a presence of love which is able to transform, from within, all who receive it.

The child born is Son of God and son of Mary. As Son of God he shows us that God is with us. As son of Mary he shows that God is one with us. He has come to our world, the world which he created, and entered into it in a way that only he could, becoming one with those he loved.

He asks for our love: so he makes himself a child. God makes himself small so that we could understand him, welcome him, and love him.

We are able to love him precisely because he has loved us in this way. It's difficult to love someone who is strong, someone who we perceive as above us, greater than us, somebody we fear. It's much easier to love someone who is weak, defenseless, in need. Love descends to that person, that place, without effort, spontaneously.

The love which God has for us is a defenseless love. It is a love which will accept to be born in a cold stable. It is a love which will be placed in a wooden manger. It is a love which will, in the end, be beaten, stripped, humiliated. It is a love which will descend to the poorest and lowest experience of humanity. It is a love which, ultimately will allow itself to suffer in place of that humanity, to be crucified and buried in the ground. A love which will rise from the dead, from the ashes, from all hopelessness, and ascend to heaven, offering each one of us the possibility to experience the power which this love has to transform the world we live in.

This love redeems us from all that is not love, this love is able to penetrate the darkest night; but this love is no mere sweet sentimentality on God's part.

To receive it we ourselves are invited to become childlike, to become small. Brother Simeon, a Cistercian monk of St. Joseph's Abbey, puts it this way: *"...a paradox is involved here: the greatness of God can be perceived only by babes, or infants, those who have no words of their own....there is a clear affinity between God and children. This truth is at the center of the mystery of Christmas, when God is revealed in the form of a baby. If he loves the childlike, it is because they are empty enough to receive what he wants to give them."*

We have come here to celebrate "Christmas," a word derived from "Christ's Mass." The Mass, our Eucharist, is our act of Thanksgiving in response to the love of God, for us and for all humanity.

This celebration belongs to all of us, and not just today, but every Sunday. You will find a welcoming parish community here, and a place to nourish your faith on a weekly basis. May each of us become child-like enough this Christmas to receive what Christ gives us. May his birth provoke a groundswell of reaction on our part, as we gather around him lying prostrate in the manger, may our lives and our world be transformed by this child born for us.

Merry Christmas,

Fr. Sean

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Saturday**

5:30 pm



**Sunday**

**December 23**

Lillian Dell'Aquila

**December 24**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve*

8:30 am



Mario Florio

10:30 am

People of the Parish

4:00 pm

Vida Marie Glaser

5:30 pm

Laura & Frank Gatto, Maria &

Joseph DiBella

12:00 am  
(Midnight)



Albert Nobile &

Michael Manganello

**Monday**

**December 25**

*The Nativity of the Lord*

8:30 am

Anne & Robert Witte

10:30 am

The McGovern & Sackermann Families

**Tuesday**

**December 26**

8:30 am

*St. Stephen*

Yousef Mashini

**Wednesday**

**December 27**

8:30 am

*St. John*

Mary Mertz

**Thursday**

**December 28**

8:30 am



*The Holy Innocents*

Dorothea & Andrew Brennan

**Friday**

**December 29**

8:30 am

*St. Thomas Becket*

Virginia M. & James T. Horris

**Saturday**

**December 30**

5:30 pm

Marie Dettan

**Sunday**

**December 31**

8:30 am



*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph; New Years Eve*

Jose S. Meirinho

10:30 am

Charles Whittlesey

**Stewardship of Treasure**

**My Parish, My Family, My Responsibility**

**"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!"**

**(Luke 1:28)**

Faith is a gift from God. Take time in silence and thanks Him for all the gifts He has given you. Try to set aside any anger or resentment you have and really open your heart to receive the gift of God's mercy and forgiveness. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others.

**Receipts From Last Week.....\$8,444.00**

**Christmas Flowers to Date.....\$1,365.00**

**Furnace Donations.....\$12,417.00**

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Christmas Cards for Sale**



We have 50<sup>th</sup> 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!

**Celebrating Baptism**



**14th Annual Baptism Reunion Mass**

**Sunday, January 14, 2018**

**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 if you have any questions. There will be a reception after Mass in McCarthy Center. All parishioners welcome!

*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.*



## Fiftieth Anniversary Christmas Concert

Our Christmas Concert was a resounding success, and a wonderful expression of communion in our parish. 275 people attended, and enjoyed the outstanding musical talents of the artists who performed. We want to thank all who supported this event, through ticket sales and sponsorship, which was very generous. A big thank you to all those who worked so diligently to plan and prepare for the concert: Bob and Peggy Monaghan, Dan and Geraldine Sammartino, Frank and Jo-Ann Lomia and family, Eamon and Geraldine Brennan, Judi Quinn, Brigette Lyons, Courtney Lynch, and especially Marie and Warren Ruppel. Marie Ruppel did an outstanding job in chairing this event, and worked since September to make this evening such a memorable occasion. We have already booked the Christmas Concert for next year!



## Jesus is the Reason For the Season!

Wishing a blessed Christmas to all of our parish families from the community of St. John's Academy! May your day be filled with the joy of Christ's birth!

## Hot Air Fund

Our second collection this past weekend for the Hot Air Fund – to replace the church boiler, raised \$13,396.00. Thank you to everyone who contributed. I know this is a difficult time of year to ask for money, but this response is evidence of the extraordinary generosity of our parishioners. The new boiler should be installed this week, at a cost of \$25,000 to \$30,000. If you would still like to contribute you may do so. Thank you for supporting your parish.

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



**Michael Pisano**

Requested by Barbara Pisano

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

A woman, short of years but abundant in wisdom, hears the call of God through an angel and all of creation waits for her response. The story of the Annunciation in this Sunday's Gospel places on a major stage the relationship humanity has with God the Father. His love for us is so great he would seek to become like us in the Incarnation, and then by his death and resurrection save us from death so that we may live forever with him. The entire cosmic plan hinges on the response of one girl. Have you ever had to make a decision that would entirely change your life and the lives of those around you? Has God ever asked you to risk it all for the kingdom? Maybe the question came in the form of a loved one's death. Perhaps a cross-country move or a job change was the request. Confronting the reality of the call made your stomach ache and your head spin. What was your response? As this Advent draws to a close, and a new calendar year lies just beyond your Christmas tree, let us pray that when the call comes we may respond as mature disciples. Age does not define maturity. Neither does experience. Maturity is defined by how we respond to God in those most challenging of moments. This Christmas, may a young girl in a far off land lead us to an infant Child who one day will most certainly ask us a question that will shake us to our core, and may our answer echo hers, "yes."

## Caroling at Sunrise Assisted Living Facility

On Sunday afternoon, December 17<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Sean accompanied fifty of our Junior High student to sing Christmas carols for the residents at the Sunrise Assisted Living Facility in Woodcliff Lake. We sang Christmas carols and then greeted each resident personally, spending time to talk to them and wish them a Merry Christmas. Our youth did a great job. The way we treat our elders is the way we will be treated when we get old!



# FAITH FORMATION



## Calendar for December & January

*“While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her first-born Son. She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn.” (Luke 2 :6-7)*

We wish you a very Blessed and Joyous Christmas Season encircled by the Love of Christ, born a humble baby in Bethlehem to save us!

### The Faith Formation Office

- Mon, Dec 25 The Nativity of Our Lord—**Holy Day of Obligation**
- Mon, Jan 1, 2018 Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God—**Holy Day of Obligation**
- Prayer of the Month: Apostle’s Creed**
- Prayer of the Month: Prayer to the Guardian Angel**
- Wed, Jan 3 3:45 pm-5:00 pm, **Faith Formation Classes For Grades 1-6, Epiphany**
- Wed, Jan 10 3:45 pm-5:00 pm, **Faith Formation Classes For Grades 1-6, St. Agathe**
- Wed, Jan 17 3:45 pm-5:00 pm, **Faith Formation Classes For Grades 1-6, St. Anthony the Abbot**
- Wed, Jan 24 3:45 pm-5:00 pm, **Faith Formation Classes For Grades 1-6, St. Francis de Sales**
- Wed, Jan 31 3:45 pm-5:00 pm, **Faith Formation Classes For Grades 1-6, St John Bosco**

## Faith Formation News

Lighting Our Faith and Faith Formation students had the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation last Wednesday at an Advent Service, a wonderful way to prepare for Christmas. Grades 1 and 2 viewed O Holy Night / The Nativity to bring home the miracle of the first Christmas.

Grade 2 is preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which they will receive on Saturday, Feb. 10 at 10 AM. On the weekend of Jan 6<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> please take a Lamb card from the basket in the lobby to pray for our second graders as they prepare for their First Reconciliation, a sacrament filled with the Healing Love of Christ.

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

This week’s question: *What feast day do we celebrate on January 1?*

Prior week’s answer: *Bethlehem was the city did Mary and Joseph travel to register for taxes.* Congratulations to Julianna Caudelli who was 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. 3. **All correct answers will be entered in a raffle for a gift card to Dairy Queen.**

## 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 Rodriguez 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](mailto:faithformationolmc@gmail.com)** to reserve for your family.

## Traveling Prayer Cross-Pray with and For Your Family

Our Traveling Prayer Cross is available to take home for a week! **God bless the Milian Family who hosted the cross this 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](mailto:faithformationolmc@gmail.com).**



**Pope Francis Says:** *“Why do we have to go to Mass on Sundays? It is to encounter the living Christ, to receive the grace & joy we really need, to obtain the strength to put his commandment to love into practice every day.” 12/13/17.*

## 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 March 3, June 2, Dec 1 at St. John’s Newark.** Contact Deacon Stan for casseroles [stanfedison@aol.com](mailto:stanfedison@aol.com) or Pat Keenaghan [patkeenaghan@yahoo.com](mailto:patkeenaghan@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

# A SAVIOR IS BORN ~ MERRY CHRISTMAS



*Archdiocese of Newark*  
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

November 22, 2017

Reverend Sean Manson  
Our Lady Mother of the Church  
209 Woodcliff Lake Avenue  
Woodcliff Lakes, NJ 07675

Dear Father Manson:

I hereby appoint you Dean of the Packsack Valley Bergen Deanery, Deanery 2P effective immediately and ending November 22, 2022.

The priests in your area have demonstrated great confidence in you by recommending your name to me. I know that you will work with them for the good of the Deanery and for the benefit of our people.

I look forward to working with you, meeting and communicating with you about the various needs of our Archdiocese. I am grateful for your assistance and willingness to serve in this important area.

I send my prayers and my blessings to you as you assume this new responsibility.

Sincerely yours in Christ the Redeemer,

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.  
Archbishop of Newark

Attest:

*Rev. Msgr. Michael A. Andreano*  
Reverend Monsignor Michael A. Andreano, V.G.  
Vicar General and Chancellor

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c: Reverend Monsignor Thomas P. Nydegger, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia  
Most Reverend John W. Flesey, S.T.D., D.D.  
Very Reverend John J. Paladino, V.F.

*Archdiocesan Center*

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