

Our Lady Mother of the Church

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



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH ~ DECEMBER 31, 2017

Fr. Sean Manson.....*Pastor*

Email: seanolmc@gmail.com

Fr. Siffredus Rwechungura.....*Parochial Vicar*

Mr. Stan Fedison.....*Deacon*

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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

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

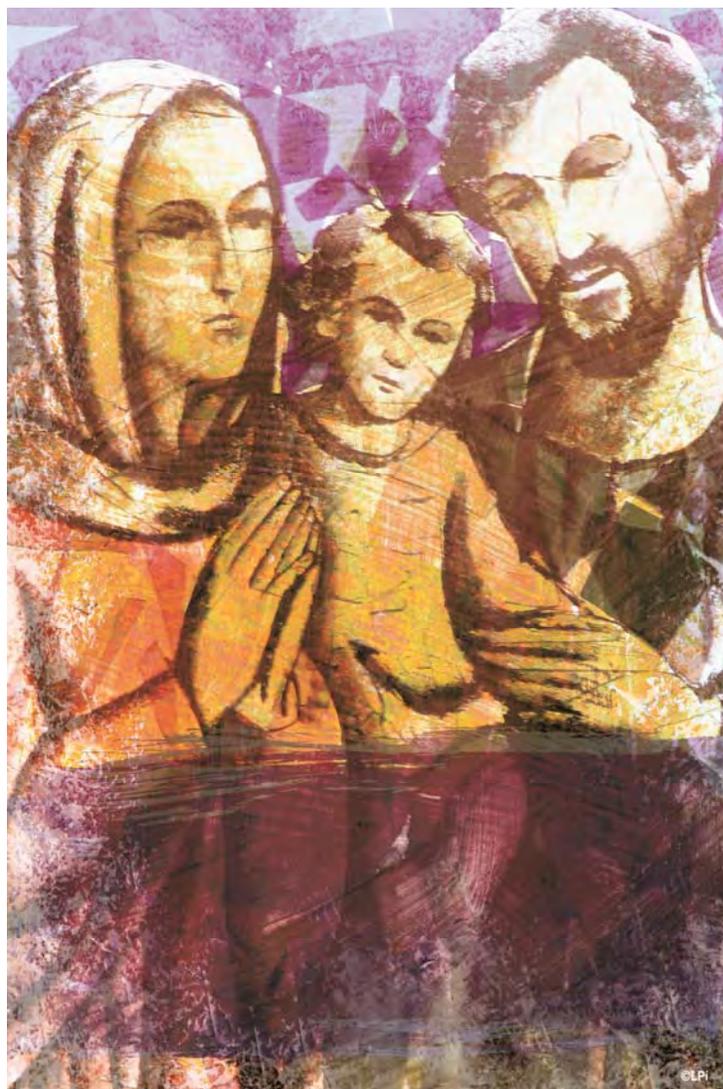
Faith Formation Office

Phone: 201-391-7400

Monday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Wednesday 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

faithformationolmc@gmail.com



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



How would you describe your family? Caring? Loving? Well balanced? Neurotic? Sports-orientated? Upwardly mobile? Financially secure? Financially struggling? Dysfunctional? Middle class? Troubled? Peaceable? Tight-knit?

Chances are that not many of us would use the word “Holy” to describe our family.

Families may be many things, but they are not usually thought of as holy. If this is true, then today’s feast – The Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph – is meaningless. Something to be admired, honored, prayed to; but impossible to emulate.

Yet all of us, and our families, have a vocation to be holy. Holiness is not the reserved privilege of a select few, it is the universal patrimony of each individual and every Christian family.

A friend of mine, Fr. Tony, once met Mother Teresa of Calcutta. He asked her what he needed to do to be holy. She looked at him and said ‘you have to desire it.’

She hit the nail on the head. We are not holy because we do not desire it. We don’t want it. Holiness is not high on our bucket list. Of all the things we wished for this Christmas, I bet none of us asked to be made holy.

Not surprising really. Holiness is frowned upon, it is an anomaly, a relic of the middle ages. Holiness can be spoken of in church, or gazed upon in frescoes, or contemplated when the choir sings and incense rises, but it has no currency in everyday life. The thought of it is gone before we leave the parking lot.

How many of us worry if our children are holy enough? How many of us have a burning desire for our marriage to be holy? Who among us thinks ‘today my goal is to be holy?’

As a seminarian I spent a year in Arizona as part of an itinerant missionary team with a family who had twelve children. The dad once told me that his one wish for his children was that they became holy. More important than their grades, or their sports, or which college they went to, was his desire for them to grow up to be holy people. Sounds a little far out? A little fanatical? It’s not.

The Today’s Feast comes to help us. It lifts up the Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph as an icon of truth. The Holy Family is an image of what we are called to be. This calling is not of our own volition, our own doing. It is the doing of God.

God calls us to holiness not because we are good, but because He is good. We do not become holy because we are perfect, or without fault. We are not holy because we never mess up. Holiness means one thing: knowing that God loves you. God loves us the way we are. It is the experience of this love which frees us from our fears, anxieties, worries, doubts, sins, and all the other unholy things in our life. Our happiness, our peace, our sanity depends on this. This holiness is the secret of our communion, our relationships with each other, our love for one another.

We can rediscover this holiness today, the Feast of the Holy Family, when God speaks to our hearts. He will speak to your heart. He calls us to be his children, and in doing so teaches each of us how to be a parent, a grandparent, a spouse, a son, a daughter, a brother, a sister, in the holy family to which we belong.

Fr. Sean

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Saturday

5:30 pm



December 30

Marie Dettan

Sunday

Mass Schedule

December 31

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

8:30 am



Jose S. Meirinho

10:30 am

Charles Whittlesey

Monday

10:30 am

THE HOLY FAMILY

January 1

Mary, The Holy Mother of God; New Year's Day; World Day of Peace

Barbara Healey

Tuesday

8:30 am



January 2

Ss. Basil the Great &

Gregory Nazianzen

Joseph A. Maldjian

Wednesday

8:30 am



January 3

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Hugo M. Sonagere

Thursday

8:30 am



January 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Virginia & Richard Offer

Friday

8:30 am



January 5

St. John Neumann

John McGovern

Saturday

5:30 pm

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

January 6

St. Andre Bessette

Lucia & Cosimo Pitarra

Sunday

8:30 am



January 7

The Epiphany of the Lord; National Migration Week

Charlotte Cieszko

10:30 am

Special Intention

The Bread and Wine will be offered
for the Month of January
in memory of



Lucilla P. Meirinho

Requested by Marcia and Marly

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.

Stewardship of Treasure

My Parish, My Family, My Responsibility

"...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive." (Colossians 3:13)

Forgiveness-one of the hardest things for people to do. It's amazing how long we can hold a grudge or be angry with someone. As we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, take this opportunity to give the gift of forgiveness to someone-maybe someone in your family, maybe a friend, maybe a co-worker or neighbor or, maybe yourself. Pick up the phone or text someone

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 Kneeshan, Vivienne Knopp, Jessica Livingstone, Abigail Mayer, Richard Neuman, Flossie O'Sullivan, Eugenia Pqrron, Patrick Randaazzo, Carol Schmidt, Barbara Toeppe, Ivan Tarabokia, Rose Ann Tripaldi, Eric Vanderleif, and Bryce Werner

"A time to mourn"

Deceased of the Parish: Geraldine McGrath

"A time for war and a time for peace"

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

Amen.

Our Lady's Guild Happenings!!!

Join us for **LUNCH! Thursday, January 11 at 12:00 pm.** Bring your own lunch, share desserts and fellowship in McCarthy Center.

Our Lady's Guild Meeting January 15th at 7 PM: We will have a guest speaker on "Our Hearts are Burning" whose format will be a dialogue on living our faith. **ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND.**

Book Club: Come and join us at our next meeting which will be on Thursday Jan. 11 at 10:30 AM in the Sister Frances Library on the stage. We will discuss *The Christmas Box* by Richard Paul Evans.

Yes, it's cold outside! What to do? Snuggle up with a book from the Sister Frances Memorial Library Come, browse and sign out a book at your convenience. Please return all borrowed books when finished. Thank you!

Hot Air Fund

The heat is on!! Thank you to all who so generously contributed to our second collection for the Hot Air Fund. We raised nearly \$14,000.00 in one collection! An incredible response. As you know the boiler broke down a couple of weeks ago, but thanks to your generosity we were able to replace it before Christmas. Parishioner Jim Tarabocchia and his crew did an amazing job in removing the old unit and installing the new one in time for the Christmas Masses. I know it was not an easy time of year to solicit funds, and many of you said you would like to contribute after Christmas. The new boiler will cost about \$30,000.00. If you would still like to contribute you may do so. Thank you for supporting your parish. Here is a picture of some of the work done in installing our new heating system.



Saint John's Academy News

*"The Lord bless 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 2018!

St. John's Academy will reopen from Christmas break on Tuesday, January 2nd.



You are invited to spend one hour each month in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament where the mind and heart more easily give themselves to communion with Christ. The Nocturnal Adoration Society meets each month on the First Friday evening in The Sacred Heart Chapel of Our Lady of Mercy in Park Ridge. The next adoration will start after the 8PM Mass at OLM on Friday, January 5, and continue through the night ending at 8:30AM on Saturday, January 6. All are welcome and encouraged to come spend time with the Blessed Sacrament. The prayer directed to Christ in the Eucharistic Sacrament is meant to extend the grace of the sacrifice offered in the Mass and deepen the union that we enjoyed with him in Communion. Any questions please call (201) 661-0618.

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 or Pat Keenaghan 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

FAITH FORMATION



Calendar for January & February

*We extend our wishes to you and your family
or a very Happy and Healthy New Year
blessed with faith, hope and love as we
celebrate the Solemnity of Mary!
The Faith Formation Office*

- 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. Agatha**
- 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**
- Prayer of the Month: Act of Contrition**
- Wed, Feb 4 3:45 pm-5:00 pm, **Faith Formation Classes For Grades 1-6, Grade 2 Parent/Child Reconciliation Workshop**
- Sat, Feb 10 10:00 am Grade 2 First Reconciliation

Faith Formation News

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 6th -7th 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.

Traveling Prayer Cross-Pray with and For Your Family

Our Traveling Prayer Cross is available to take home for a week! **God bless the Brodsky 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.

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 Gabby Ruocco 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 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 LaMotta 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.



Pope Francis Says: *These are the ten things that he called upon Vatican employees to do in the New Year:*

1. "Take care of your spiritual life, your relationship with God, because this is the backbone of everything we do and everything we are."
2. "Take care of your family life, giving your children and loved ones not just money, but most of all your time, attention and love."
3. "Take care of your relationships with others, transforming your faith into life and your words into good works, especially on behalf of the needy."
4. "Be careful how you speak, purify your tongue of offensive words, vulgarity and worldly decadence."
5. "Heal wounds of the heart with the oil of forgiveness, forgiving those who have hurt us and medicating the wounds we have caused others."
6. "Look after your work, doing it with enthusiasm, humility, competence, passion and with a spirit that knows how to thank the Lord."
7. "Be careful of envy, lust, hatred and negative feelings that devour our interior peace and transform us into destroyed and destructive people."
8. "Watch out for anger that can lead to vengeance; for laziness that leads to existential euthanasia; for pointing the finger at others, which leads to pride; and for complaining continually, which leads to desperation."
9. "Take care of brothers and sisters who are weaker ... the elderly, the sick, the hungry, the homeless and strangers, because we will be judged on this."
10. "Making sure your Christmas is about Jesus and not about shopping."

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Mother Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton Feast Day January 4

In the Battery Park area of Manhattan, near New York Harbor, sits a historic house. From its colonnaded front porch, a contented young married woman, Elizabeth Bayley Seton, could enjoy the bustle of the city. Elizabeth had grown up in New York; she was a toddler when the Revolutionary War broke out. Her father was a surgeon and anatomy professor at what is now Columbia University. Her mother was from a prominent Episcopalian family.

Elizabeth's husband William represented his father's ship-merchant business. They had five children: Anna, William, Richard, Catherine and Rebecca. In the midst of this busy life, she found time to work with the poor. She even established a charity, the Society for the Relief of Poor Widows with Small Children.

Then William developed health problems, complicated by worry about business reversals. Seeking a cure for him, the couple traveled to Italy, where he died. Throughout their difficult stay, they had been treated with great kindness by a Catholic family. Elizabeth was deeply touched by this and found herself drawn to Catholicism. She was received into the Catholic faith on her return to the United States. However, this was a time of strong anti-Catholic feeling. As a result of her decision her wealthy family (and many of her friends) cut all ties with her. Now she herself was a poor widow with small children.

Fortunately, a priest invited her to begin a school for girls in Baltimore. This was the first Catholic school in the United States. In 1809, with a small group of other dedicated women, she established a house in Emmitsburg, Maryland. There she formed a religious community, the Sisters of Charity. It was the first congregation founded in the United States. The order grew rapidly, serving hospitals and orphanages, but was most involved with building the Catholic educational system. Elizabeth herself trained teachers and wrote textbooks. She also worked with the poor, nursed the sick and composed hymns and spiritual reflections. She died while still in her forties, having accomplished an extraordinary amount in her short lifetime (1774–1821). She was wife, mother, widow, educator and founder.

Elizabeth is the first native-born American saint. She is buried in the Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton at Emmitsburg. The Roman Catholic church remembers her each year on January 4.



ST. JOSEPH
Social Service Center

118 Division Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, phone: (908) 352-2988, fax: (908) 354-1433, www.sjeliz.org

December 14, 2017

Outreach Ministry Council
Our Lady Mother of the Church
209 Woodcliff Avenue
Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677

Dear Outreach Ministry Council and the Parish Community,

Thank you very much for the generous donation of Shoprite gift cards for our Thanksgiving dinner program. We are very grateful for the on-going support and commitment from your parish. The gift cards are truly a blessing to the poor and homeless families that we serve.

Sr. Jacinta Fernandes and Edie Cheney will be stepping down from their ministry at St. Joseph's at the end of this year. As the new Director and on behalf of all of the staff and volunteers here, we thank you for helping us continue the mission of serving the poor.

Merry Christmas to all of you from all of us at St. Joseph's.

Peace and blessings,

Bernadette Murphy
Director

"Share your bread with the hungry and shelter the homeless poor." (Isaiah 58)



Food Pantry Donations Needed

Thanks to everyone for your most generous donations to the Food Pantry in December. It is time again for our January collection which will be held on the weekend of January 6/7. The special needs and requests for this month are: hot and cold cereal, canned fruit, jelly, tuna, paper towels and toilet paper. **They are overstocked with Cheerios.** They would like to offer a variety of cereal to choose from. So, other brands of cereal would be appreciated. Any other donations are of course welcome as well. All those concerned at the pantry deeply appreciate your continued generosity. My personal thanks for your assistance to our brothers and sisters who are in need.

Deacon Stan