



Our Lady of Sorrows

217 PROSPECT STREET, SOUTH ORANGE, NJ 07079

973-763-5454

www.olschurch.com



MASSSES: *Saturday Vigil: 5:30 pm; Sunday 8:00, 10:00 and 11:30 am
Monday-Friday 7:00 am and 12:00 pm; Saturday 8:30 am and 12:00 pm*

Penance: Confessions Saturday 12:45 pm – 2:00 pm or by appointment

Baptism: Contact Parish Office after the birth of your child to begin Baptismal preparation program

Ministry of the Sick: Call Parish Office for anointing of seriously or chronically ill for the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and to arrange Communion calls

Marriages: Arrange at least one year in advance with a parish priest

RECTORY and PARISH: 973-763-5454 • FAX: 973-763-9506

January 5th, 2025

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

A Message from Fr. Brian

This Sunday is the 12th and final day of Christmas, and we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord. Throughout most of the world, this Feast is celebrated with as much festivity as Christmas, but in the United States, it has unfortunately become almost neglected, as we stop thinking about the birth and manifestation of Jesus already by December 26th. It should, however, be celebrated with great solemnity because it means that God, in His great goodness and love, has shown Himself to us. An epiphany, in its Greek meaning, is a manifestation of any sort. There is no greater epiphany than when God reveals Himself in the Person of His Son, Jesus Christ. Today's feast honors that epiphany, when He manifests Himself to the world through the visit of the magi, the 3 wise men. Tradition gives their names as Melchior, Balthasar and Caspar.

Another epiphany that we experienced over the last couple of weeks was those who helped to make Christmas at OLS so wonderful. We are incredibly blessed in this parish by the many people who constantly give of themselves to make OLS such a special place. Allow me to thank some of these people.

- Our church is always an incredibly beautiful building, but it looks especially magnificent at Christmas (and Easter). Thank you to those who helped to decorate the church this year, including Dorothy Iantosca, Mary Loeser and her 3 grandchildren, Carole DeMeo, and Joyce Ashurst.
- We are blessed by our parish maintenance crew. Led by Marvin Reyes, this crew includes Sam Lewis and Julio Herrera. They put up the live trees in the church and other parish buildings. They also put up the massive live wreaths on the inside columns of the church as well as the wreaths on the exterior doors, the flags that fly from the columns, and our 3 Nativity scenes: in the church, in front of the rectory, and near the 4th Street entrance. By the way, the Nativity scene in the Church will remain up until the Feast of the Presentation, which is February 2nd.
- Our spectacular music ministry, led by Preston Dibble, our organist and Director of Music. Our annual Carol Sing was truly magnificent! We are so blessed at OLS to have such a wonderful music ministry. It is composed of 3 choirs: the St. Cecilia Children's Choir, the Youth Choir (high school), and the Parish Choir. Our immense gratitude goes out to all the members of our choirs. Thank you for sharing with us the gift of music!
- Our Youth Group, which is guided by Chris Kaiser. Members of our Youth Group helped us with the Live Nativity Scene in front of the rectory during the Carol Sing. They were dressed as Mary and Joseph and as shepherds (which was appropriate, given that they looked after the live sheep and donkey and alpaca!).
- Our Religious Education Department, under the direction of Jen Noll and Colleen McDonald, put on a wonderful children's Christmas pageant. Our gratitude goes especially to the children of the parish who participated in the Pageant. They reminded us of the real reason we celebrate Christmas. Thanks also to Liz Ebert for organizing the pizza party afterward!
- You! Thank you to the more than 2,000 of you for your presence at Christmas Masses! And thank you for your Christmas gifts to the parish. Your support helps us to make Jesus better known, loved and served, which is our parish mission. Thank you!

Thanks to one and all for manifesting ("epiphanizing") your goodness and generosity in helping to make OLS such a wonderful, vibrant parish!

Wishing you a blessed Epiphany and 2025!



THE SACRIFICIAL GIVING OF OUR PARISHIONERS

Due to accelerated bulletin deadlines for Christmas and New Year's, the numbers are delayed and will be reported in subsequent bulletins. We will return to the normal reporting schedule in mid-January.

Regifting Project: Spread the Joy!

A reminder that this weekend is the last weekend to bring in presents for our **Christmas Regifting Project** to benefit Mercy House (www.rcan.org/mercy-house) in Newark.



Liturgically, the Christmas season doesn't end until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (next weekend), so you still have time to spread some Christmas cheer.

Please **bring your gifts to the church** and **leave them in the vestibule** no later than 12:30pm on **January 5**. There is **no need to wrap them**. They'll be delivered to Mercy House and then given directly to those in need.

If you have any questions, please contact Anna Nelson: annanelson202@gmail.com or (973) 477-9546.

If we share with the poor, out of love for God, whatever he has given to us, we shall receive according to his promise a hundredfold in eternal happiness. - St. John of God, religious



Capital Campaign Update

As you know, to address the capital needs of our parish property, we began our Forward in Faith capital campaign this fall. Our \$1 million goal is aimed at addressing the structural needs of our parish campus. *I am thrilled to share with you that we are only \$5,000 short of our goal in pledges thanks to the commitment of close to 200 families.* Their generosity and sacrifice should give us the confidence that together we will meet and **even surpass** our parish goal!

We are very grateful for those who have already participated in the campaign. *And we urge the remainder of our parish families to consider making a gift/pledge to the campaign.* Please know though that our capital campaign is based on equal sacrifice and not equal giving. Everyone has different fiscal means and responsibilities. Be assured that whatever pledge amount you make, we are very grateful for your support. All pledges and gifts are gratefully accepted. It is truly a sacrifice, and your participation will be an essential part of our parish's success, especially during this season of giving when we celebrate the greatest gift our Father in Heaven could ever offer us - Jesus Christ. We encourage you to offer your own gift to your parish church.

To discover more about our capital campaign (including our Case Statement) or to make a gift or pledge, please visit our parish website (olschurch.com) and from there you will be directed to our capital campaign page.

You may also fill out one of the pledge cards which can be found in the pews of the church. Additionally, you may scan this QR code to be brought directly to our payment page.



Meet Our Staff

Rev. Brian X. Needles, Pastor
frbrianneedles@gmail.com

Rev. Andrew Lee, Parochial Vicar
frlee527@gmail.com

Rev. Robert Suszko, Weekend Assistant

Rev. Patrick Seo, Priest in Residence

Rev. Dominic Ciriaco, Priest in Residence

Deacon Walter Wiggins, Permanent Deacon

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Deacon Steven Greydanus, Permanent Deacon

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Stephanie Sonnick, Ministerial Associate

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Preston Dibble, Director of Music

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Karlene Campbell, Nursery Director

karlene@thenurseryatols.org

Charles Noun, Business Manager

charlesnoun@olschurch.com

Mary Beth Zurat, Secretary

marybeth.olschurch@gmail.com

Bagels and Coffee and Donuts Returns!



Hopefully one of your New Year's resolutions isn't to cut out carbs and sugar because our first Bagels and Coffee and Donuts of 2025 is today (Sunday, January 5th)

after the 10 and 11:30am Masses. If, however, your resolution is **to eat** more carbs and sugar in 2025, then you're in luck. Either way, we hope that you at least resolve to join us and share in the joy of our parish community as we enter a New Year.

20 + C + M + B + 25

Don't worry we're not asking you to solve an advanced math problem, but rather suggesting an educational and fun Epiphany activity for you and your family: Epiphany house blessing

On the feast of the Epiphany, many Catholics bless their homes by writing the letters C, M, and B and the numbers of the year on the top of their front door frame with chalk. This combination of letters and numbers holds a special meaning.

The letters represent two different things. First, they stand for the names of the three wise men: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar.

*Secondly, they also represent the Latin blessing *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which translates to "May Christ bless this house."*

The crosses between each figure signify our salvation through Christ.

- www.catholic365.com



From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts; gold for the great king, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of his burial.



Masses For The Week



VIGIL, SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 2025

5:30 PM People of the Parish

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025

8:00 AM Vincent Ryan
10:00 AM Teesha Hack
11:30 AM Eileen Schmidt

MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2025

7:00 AM Edward Antinozzi
12:00 PM Living Members of the Etienne Family
– Special Intention

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025

7:00 AM Elizabeth and Allen Nelson
12:00 PM Alberto Londono

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025

7:00 AM Rudy Polaski
12:00 PM Cathy Craig

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024

7:00 AM Donna Goeman
– Special Intention
12:00 PM Juan C. Rego Sr.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024

7:00 AM People of the Parish
12:00 PM Stella Zglobicki

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024

8:30 AM Dolores Ritota
12:00 PM People of the Parish

VIGIL, SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024

5:30 PM Melanie Tronccone

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024

8:00 AM DePaola, Deehan & Salvante Families
10:00 AM Juan Carlos Rego Sr.
11:30 AM People of the Parish

Pray for the Departed



Let us remember those who have passed away recently at OLS.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

In Memoriam

It is a loving gesture to donate the weekly Sanctuary Candle in memory of a loved one for a special intention. If you would like to do so, please call the parish office for more information.



REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please keep the following in your prayers:
Bill Aber, Rita Arena, Patricia Bee, Roy Bell, Daniel Callaghan, Julia Callaghan, Robert Charles, Bekim Colaku, John Colaku, Alice Cosack, Cynthia Critelli, Mark F. Davonski, Alan Droppa, Michael Elliot, Patricia Evanik, George Richmond Files Jr., Norma Gonzalez, Beth Hebron, Deborah Hebron, Mimi Hermann, Norma Hermann, Agnes Marshall, Elizabeth Mary, Patricia McDonnell, Neville Moore, Megan More, Kathleen Mullan, Kate Mullin, Melissa O'Brien, Ludgarda Rosa, Julian Sherman, Marie Somers, Elizabeth Stuart, Catherine Sullivan, Donna T., Mary Jane Tannen, Stephanie Windsor





Youth Free Throw Contest

Sponsored by the

Knights of Columbus Regina Pacis Council #4066

Friday, January 10, 2025

6:30 pm

Our Lady of Sorrows School Gym

- Girls and Boys ages 9-14 may participate in the competition (participants will compete within their age/gender group)
- Registration will take place upon arrival the day of the contest (parent/guardian must be present to fill out registration form)
- *No pre-registration required*
- Any questions please contact Lou Budzyn (kc3on3@gmail.com)

FREE OF CHARGE

Bereavement Ministry: **A Support Group for Those Grieving**

*Led by Deacon Walter Wiggins and other trained
facilitators*

If a loved one has passed away, either recently or years ago, please join us for our series of six sessions. Each session includes information, grief support and mutual sharing in a spiritual, confidential setting.

First meeting: Sunday, January 12th 2025.

in the Lower Church, from 1pm-2:30pm
(following the 11:30 Mass)
Refreshments will be served.

Pre-registration is required: if you are interested in joining us or hearing more about the group, please contact Terri or John via email below:

Terri – tmcbarrett50@gmail.com

John – jpprod25@comcast.net