



Our Lady of Sorrows

217 PROSPECT STREET, SOUTH ORANGE, NJ 07079

973-763-5454

www.olschurch.com



MASSES: *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

February 2, 2025

Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord

A Message from Fr. Brian

When does the Christmas season end? I've been asked that question many, many times over the course of my priesthood. The answer can confuse even those who are very familiar with the Church's liturgical calendar. So, here's a primer:

- **Christmas** – This is the general term for the actual Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord on December 25th.
- **Christmas Octave** – This is the eight-day period (thus “octave”) during which Christmas is celebrated and includes the actual feast.
- **Christmas Season (also called “Christmastide”)** – This is the liturgical season that runs from Christmas Eve until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which this year fell on January 12th.
- **Christmas Cycle** – This is an unofficial term applied to the liturgical year that points to the Incarnation and manifestation of Christ and it encompasses the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and the first part of Ordinary Time. The last feast day of the “Christmas Cycle” is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, which always occurs on February 2nd and is 40 days after Christmas.

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord commemorates three distinct but related historical events in the life of the Holy Family. It marks the day when Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem, exactly 40 days after his birth. The Mosaic Law required them to consecrate their firstborn son to God. In addition, the law required Mary to submit to ritual purification 40 days after childbirth (for this reason, historically this feast has also been called the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary). This feast also commemorates the encounter in the temple between the Holy Family and Saint Simeon the prophet and Saint Anna the prophetess. Today's feast is also known by the title Candlemas because of the words of Saint Simeon when he met the child Jesus in the temple: “For my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” Jesus is the Light of the World and for this reason, there is a custom of the Church blessing candles for use throughout the year. Traditionally, families also bring their own candles to church to be blessed on this feast (if you read this column before you attend Mass this weekend, be sure to bring your candle(s)!).

Allow me in this bulletin column to focus on the parents of Jesus presenting Jesus in the temple. It's a beautiful image: parents bringing their children to temple (or church) and consecrating them to God. This plays itself out today when Catholic parents bring their children to Mass. And it's not just us Christians who bring their children to be blessed by God and to learn about God. Our Jewish neighbors do the same thing. Many synagogues have Hebrew school for children on Sundays (as well as also on Tuesdays or Wednesdays).

Sadly, evil reared its ugly head last Sunday (January 26th) when Jewish parents brought (“presented”) their children to Hebrew school at Oheb Shalom Synagogue on Scotland Road in South Orange. A group of about 10 pro-Palestine activists gathered on the sidewalk outside of the synagogue to protest an event that the synagogue was hosting about Unit 669, an elite search and rescue unit of the Israeli Defense Force. The protest took an evil, ugly turn when protestors wrote “terrorists this way” (with an arrow pointed toward the synagogue), shouted “baby killers” and other antisemitic slogans to passing drivers, and intimidated drivers and pedestrians.

Now, obviously, people have a *legal* right to peacefully exercise their freedom of speech. But nobody has the *moral* right to use hateful, evil language against others, to intimidate others, and to make others feel unsafe. And to do this when parents were “presenting” their children to God by bringing them to Hebrew school makes the attack even more outrageous and egregious.

Rabbi Abigail Treu of Oheb Shalom Synagogue wrote in a statement: “As in all things, we are a diverse community. We do not insist that we all keep kosher the same way or have identical prayer lives or ways of celebrating shabbat and holidays. So too we do not require a set of beliefs around Israel, domestic politics, or any other issue.” She also wrote: “...we are committed to the Jewish people and to holding our diverse community with safety and curiosity, with calm and respect, and, of course, with security and safety. There is room for lots of questions, grappling, ideas and opinions. However, there are limits to even the widest of tents. People who stand outside our building, calling us terrorists, making us feel threatened or on the defensive as we undertake the peaceful work of joining in local community, do not have a place here. Not at Oheb, and I know not at our neighboring synagogue partners, either. Our tent is a large one, but it has walls.”

We at OLS stand in prayerful solidarity with our Jewish friends. We reject all language that expresses hate, that intimidates, that makes others feel unsafe, and that is not in keeping with the Scriptural imperative that we treat everyone, including even those with whom we may disagree, with respect and dignity and which always respects the safety and security of others.

Let us pray to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that this type of behavior does not repeat itself in our community (or anywhere) and that our Jewish neighbors can worship, study, serve, and present their children to God without being subjected to hate and intimidation. The synagogue’s name of Oheb Shalom means “lovers of peace.” May we all be lovers of peace and pray and work that anything that threatens peace be driven from the face of the earth.

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Brian". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**THE SACRIFICIAL GIVING OF
OUR PARISHIONERS**

January 26	Week 31	YTD
Collection	\$10,111	\$383,095
Budgeted	\$12,164	\$377,083

2nd Collection - Communicating God's Word
\$1,985

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Reminder: Candle Blessing



Bring your candles from home to one of the Sunday Masses to be blessed in celebration of the Light of the World, Jesus Christ.

"He is a light to reveal God to the nations."

Verso Cristo Young Adults Game Night!

Join Verso Cristo Young Adults for their first event of 2025:

Game Night! on Friday, February 21st at 7pm at St. Philomena's in Livingston.

It will be an evening of fun, fellowship, and friendly competition!

If you are between the ages of 20 and 35 and looking to build community while growing in your faith, please consider learning more about Verso Cristo. For more information, DM us on Instagram @versocristo or email Stephanie at olschurchministries@gmail.com

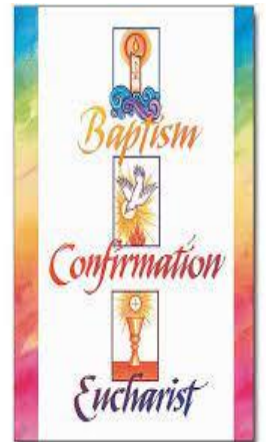
Welcome to the Family!

Seven new members were initiated into our Christian Community last Sunday. They are: Theodore James Gendimenico, Jameer Joseph Leneus, Amelia Rose Chamberlain, Gregory Thomas Phillips, Rhiannon Therese Mickey, Ashton Paul Nsikan Jnr Nsikan Ntuk and Azriel Peter Aniekan Nsikan Ntuk. We congratulate their parents, godparents, and families.



Does your heart desire something more?

That *something more* is the Person of Jesus Christ and a deeper share in the Divine Life. St. Augustine said, "My heart is restless until it rests in Thee, oh God." He had a major turning to God. If you desire to come into the fullness of Faith in the Catholic Church, please call Sr. Mary Selina at (973) 763-5454. If you are a Catholic but have never been Confirmed, please call and start the process in which the Holy Spirit will come to you in a powerful way as to help you live your Catholic faith more fully.



Feast of St. Blaise – Blessing of Throats

Monday, February 3rd is the Feast of St. Blaise and it is a tradition to have your throat blessed on this day. At both our 7:00 am and 12:00 Noon Masses, we will have the blessing of throats.

Meet Our Staff

Rev. Brian X. Needles, Pastor
frbriannedles@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
deaconwalt@outlook.com
Deacon Steven Greydanus, Permanent Deacon
DeaconSDG@gmail.com
Judy Foley, School Principal
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Sr. Mary Selina, S.C.C., Pastoral Associate
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Christopher Kaiser, Youth Minister
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Colleen McDonald, Administrative Assistant
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Preston Dibble, Director of Music
olsmusician@gmail.com
Karlene Campbell, Nursery Director
karlene@thenurseryatols.org
Charles Noun, Business Manager
charlesnoun@olschurch.com
Mary Beth Zurat, Secretary
marybeth.olschurch@gmail.com

Rosary Society Meeting

The Rosary Society's first meeting of the new year will be Wednesday, February 12th at 7pm in St. Joseph Hall. All are welcome to attend!



"If you say the Holy Rosary every day, with a spirit of faith and love, our Lady will make sure she leads you very far along her Son's path."

- St. Josemaria Escriva

Men's Retreat – Save-the-Date

Gentlemen of OLS, mark your calendars for a Lenten Day of Recollection on Saturday, March 8th sponsored by our Knights of Columbus - Regina Pacis Council #4066.

The theme is *Surrender Yourself to the Eucharist*. Fr. Patrick Seo is the guest presenter. Mass will be offered as well as recitation of the rosary. There will also be an opportunity for confession and private reflection.

Please consider attending. To learn more, contact Len Mrozak at (908) 872-4968 or lmrozak@aol.com



Surrender Yourself to the Eucharist

Men's Lenten Day of Recollection

Saturday, March 8, 2025

9:00am - 3:00pm

Location: Villa Pauline Retreat and Spiritual Center* - Mendham, NJ

Presenter: Rev. Patrick Seo, Newark Archdiocese Director of Priestly Vocations

Cost: \$50.00

All men over 18 are invited to participate

Program

- Mass at 9:00
- Continental Breakfast
- Presentations by Fr. Patrick
- Private Reflection / Opportunity for Confession
- Hot Lunch
- Recitation of Rosary and Benediction
- Closing prayer at 3:00

RSVP to Len Mrozak: (908) 872-4968 or lmrozak@aol.com

*The Villa Pauline Retreat and Spiritual Center is located on the grounds of The Sisters of Christian Charity Mallinckrodt Convent in Mendham: sccus.org

[Knights of Columbus, Regina Pacis Council #4066](#)



Masses For The Week



VIGIL, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2025

5:30 PM James L. Murphy

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025

8:00 AM DePaola, Deehan & Salvante Families
10:00 AM People of the Parish
11:30 AM Christie Pascual and Lucas Soto
Pascual – Special Intention

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025

Blessing of throats at both Masses

7:00 AM Edmund Duthie
12:00 PM Richard Needles

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025

7:00 AM Janice Callahan
12:00 PM Fay Etienne – Special Intention

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025

7:00 AM Agnes Blair
12:00 PM Mary Brown

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025

7:00 AM The Brutofsky Family
12:00 PM Carolyn Rolli

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2025

7:00 AM Raphael Ezuduemoih – Special
Intention & All Souls in Purgatory
12:00 PM People of the Parish

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2025

8:30 AM Joan Matson
12:00 PM John M. and Bernice Plesnik

VIGIL, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2025

5:30 PM Mary DiPrenda

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025

8:00 AM People of the Parish
10:00 AM Juan Rego
11:30 AM Julius Sea

Pray for the Departed



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

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he 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. This week's Sanctuary Candle is in memory of Robert F. Noesner requested by OLS School Family. If you would like to do so, please call the parish office for more information.



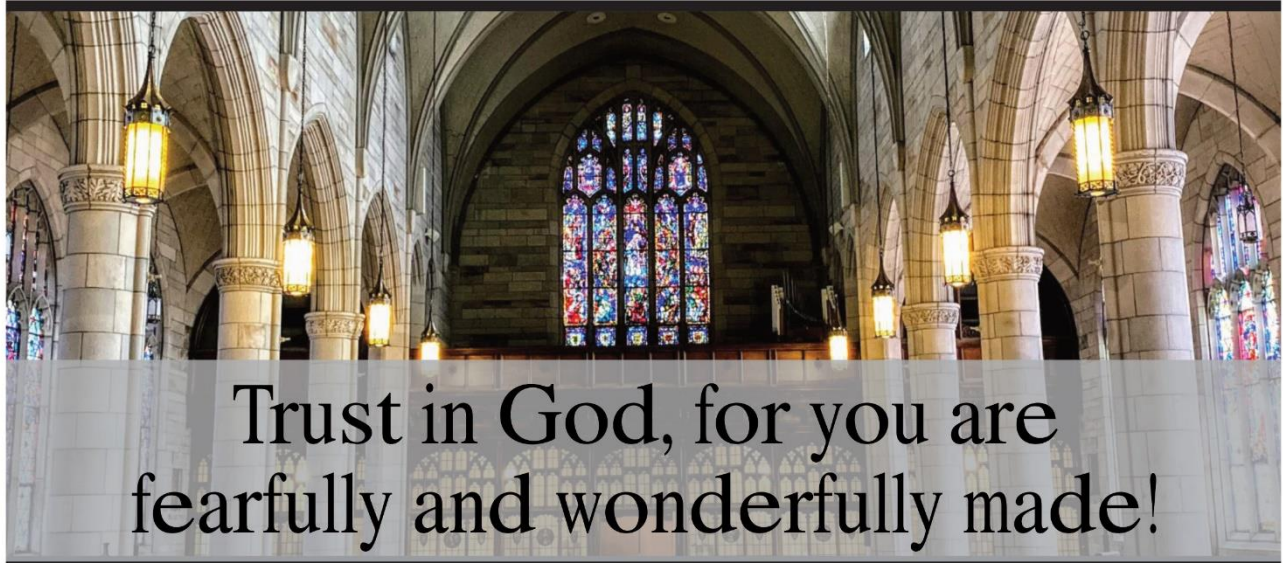
REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please keep the following in your prayers: Bill Aber, Rita Arena, Diana Baseman, 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, Mary Jane Waldron, Stephanie Windsor



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217 Prospect Street, South Orange, NJ 07079



Women's Retreat

Saturday, February 22, 2025

Noon until 4pm

We will begin our day with noon Mass in the Upper Church



featuring guest speaker Dr. Mary Marron-Corwin, MD

Dr. Mary Marron-Corwin is a Nationally respected physician, teacher, lecturer and author. In her 40 year career as a specialist in Neonatal Intensive Care, she has been recognized as a top Neonatologist by: US News and World Report, New York Magazine, Castle & Connolly Top Doctors, Catholic New York and has been featured in a number of TV documentaries. Recently retired as Chairman of Newborn Medicine & Pediatrics at Harlem Hospital, NYC, and Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, Columbia University, Dr. Marron-Corwin serves as a Trustee at St. Philomena's Parish, Livingston. She has been an Oblate of St. Benedict at St. Mary's Abbey for the past 25 years. Married for the past 37 years to Dr. Andrew Corwin, they have 3 adult children.

Please RSVP by Sunday, February 16
to Melanie Chambers at
mchambers97@comcast.net
or scan this code with your phone

Admission is \$20 at the door

