



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

March 9th, 2025
First Sunday of Lent

A Message from Fr. Andrew

St. Francis was a humble and loving saint. Countless stories attest to how great an instrument he was spreading the Good News of Christ across Western Europe during the time of the Church's struggle with wealth and power. What makes him the true hero in the history of the Roman Catholic Church is His radical imitation of Christ in his efforts to reform the Church through the love of poverty.

Early Franciscans followed the footsteps of St. Francis and joined him in practicing 40 days of fasting during both the seasons of Lent and Advent. St. Francis ate only a half-loaf of bread for the WHOLE 40 DAYS! He consumed even that tiny amount of food, not because he couldn't endure hunger, but to fight the temptation of vainglory. Although trying his best, one of Francis's early followers could not endure the lengthy fasting that St. Francis practiced. As Francis saw the young friar's struggle, he commanded his other followers to set the table for a meal together. He began eating and invited the rest to join him. The early disciples of Francis were astonished, for they were expecting the young friar to be rebuked. By breaking the fast, Francis taught his disciples that fraternal charity is more important than the practice of penance. Instead of shaming the man, Francis broke his own fast, broke his bread to share, and invited the rest to this duty of charity so that the hungry brother could eat without being ashamed of himself.

We celebrate the first Sunday of Lent, and perhaps some of us still haven't decided what to give up. Regardless of the things we choose to do during this Lent, we must remember the lesson St. Francis teaches in this story: The purpose of penance and fasting is to grow in us a stronger love for Christ and our neighbors. Fasting just for the sake of fasting can be dangerous. Focusing too much on our "doings" will make these 40 days not Lent but rather a 40-day challenge, boosting our ego. It is essential to ask ourselves. Why do we fast and give up what we like during Lent? It is to imitate the life of Christ, which was filled with suffering to save us. It is to prepare ourselves for the joy of Easter, and it is also to bring ourselves to focus on our hope for heaven by restricting our bodily comfort and satisfaction. All our Lenten disciplines should orient us to true inner conversion and freedom from unnecessary attachments. These practices will lead us to charity. If our focus isn't charity in doing what we do during Lent, we must sit and reevaluate if our priorities are set correctly. We don't fast to punish our bodies but fast to grow in Christ-like charity. Let's learn from St. Francis, who always put the imitation of Christ at the center of all spiritual disciplines.

During this season of Lent, our parish community will have the privilege of having the 21st-century disciples of St. Francis – The Community of Franciscan Friars of the Renewal - at our three-day parish mission. Carrying out the missions and charism of St. Francis, CFR brothers and priests will lead us closer to Christ by renewing our hope in the Lord. This three-day parish retreat from Monday, March 24th to Wednesday, March 27th, from 7 pm to 9 pm, will include confessions and Eucharistic Healing! Please join us, and may our Lent be the time to join the footsteps of Jesus in the desert in prayers, fasting, and almsgiving.

Blessings,



**THE SACRIFICIAL GIVING OF
OUR PARISHIONERS**

March 2	Week 36	YTD
Collection	\$16,570	\$448,558
Budgeted	\$12,164	\$437,903

Food Pantry - \$477
Candles - \$281

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance Service

South Orange/Maplewood's 48th Annual Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance Service will be held at 3:00pm on Sunday, March 23rd at Congregation Beth El in South Orange. Please consider attending. For more information, contact OLS parishioner Mary Chris Brauchli at (973) 943-2770



**South Orange & Maplewood Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance Service
March 23, 2025**

Join us for the 48th Annual SOMA Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance Service on Sunday, March 23, 2025, at Congregation Beth El, South Orange.

Our event begins at 3:00 PM with the March of Remembrance and Hope from Spiotta Park, honoring the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, along with millions of others who were brutally murdered by the Nazi regime. The service follows at 4:00 PM, exploring the theme of Resistance and Resilience with guest speaker Dr. Jud Newborn, an Emmy Award-winning historian and co-author of *Sophie Scholl and the White Rose*.

This year, Stephen Schwartz and Sylvia Ben-Asher, a Warsaw Ghetto survivor, will receive the Sister Rose Thering Holocaust Education Award for their impactful work in Holocaust education.

Our interfaith event is a powerful stand against resurgent anti-semitism and hate. We invite the SOMA community to come together in remembrance — to honor the past, tell its story, and build a brighter future of tolerance and understanding.

For details, contact Mary Chris Brauchli at 973-943-2770



Volunteer for Family Promise

OLS will once again be supporting families experiencing homelessness for Family Promise of Essex County (formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network).

We need to prepare a meal and to shop for a list of grocery items for several families. The meals and grocery items will need to be brought to the lower church (Fourth Street entrance) the evening of Monday, March 31st or the morning of Tuesday, April 1st and will be delivered to the Family Promise office on April 1st.

Volunteer roles include:

- Cooks to prepare part of a meal. *You'll be contacted about the part of the meal to prepare and the size of the family.*
- Shoppers to provide requested grocery items. *You'll be contacted about the list of items to provide.*
- Volunteers to help accept and store meals and groceries on Monday evening (3/31) or Tuesday morning (4/1).

Starting this weekend (March 8th and 9th), we will have sign-up sheets in the church vestibule for these roles. Another option is to donate a gift card for the families. A sign-up sheet for specific gift cards to donate will be available as well.

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



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
principal@ourladyofsorrowsschool.org
Sr. Mary Selina, S.C.C., Pastoral Associate
passociate07@gmail.com
Jennifer Noll, Catechetical Coordinator
jennollols@gmail.com
Christopher Kaiser, Youth Minister
kaiserch@shu.edu
Stephanie Sonnicks, Ministerial Associate
olschurchministries@gmail.com
Colleen McDonald, Administrative Assistant
sorrowsschurch@gmail.com
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 next meeting will be Wednesday, March 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

Verso Cristo Theology on Tap!

Verso Cristo's next event is a Theology on Tap talk hosted by Seton Hall theology professor Dr. Eric Johnston. Join fellow young adults (ages 21-35) on Friday, March 14th (*Pi Day!*) at 7:30pm at St. Philomena's in Livingston as Dr. Johnston dispenses some *infinite* wisdom on how to participate more fully in Mass.

Verso Cristo Young Adults invites anyone ages 21 - 35 to...

THEOLOGY ON TAP!

FRIDAY, MARCH 14TH | 7:30 PM

"Lay People are Called to Pray the Mass, Not Just the Priest. But How...?"

with Dr. Eric Johnston



The Church tells us that the Mass is "the source and summit" of our faith. But let's be honest - sometimes Mass is uninspiring! So, what does this mean? **How are we as lay people truly called to enter into this mystery, rather than just follow along? And why don't we already know how to do this?!** This is the challenge of the lay vocation! Kick off your Saint Patrick's Day weekend with an evening of free food and drinks with a talk from fellow layman and theologian Dr. Johnston on this crucial topic. **Small children are welcome in tow!**

At The Church of Saint Philomena
in St. Joseph's Hall (park in back of church & look for open door with balloon markers!)

386 South Livingston Avenue
Livingston, NJ 07039

Stations of the Cross

A reminder that we have Stations of the Cross every Friday at 7pm in the upper church. On Good Friday, April 18th, we will have Living Stations of the Cross with Choral Meditations at 7:30pm in the upper church.



Masses For The Week



VIGIL, SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2025

5:30 PM Walter Borowicz

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025

8:00 AM People of the Parish
10:00 AM James Edward McShane
11:30 AM Silano Family

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025

7:00 AM Elizabeth Polaski and Anna Cupper
12:00 PM Isekengbe Family and
All Souls in Purgatory

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025

7:00 AM Richard A. Medina
12:00 PM Dorothy Medler

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025

7:00 AM Rosemary Strammiello
12:00 PM Richard Needles

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025

7:00 AM Marian Lombardi
12:00 PM Keith Novack

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2025

7:00 AM Kim Herbert – Special Intention
12:00 PM Roman Nowacki

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2025

8:30 AM Antonio, Margherita and Pietra Pizzillo
12:00 PM Kit Carson

VIGIL, SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2025

5:30 PM Margaret Brown

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2025

8:00 AM Rose Schrempp
10:00 AM William E. Smith
11:30 AM People of the Parish

Pray for the Departed



Let us remember our deceased loved ones in our prayers.

St. Paul of the Cross wrote, "If, during life, we have been kind to the suffering souls in purgatory, God will see that help be not denied us after death."

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, 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, Sr. Regis Keane, 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, Kathi Thiemer, Mary Jane Waldron, Sr. Mary Jo Ward, Stephanie Windsor



Lent at OLS

“Lent is a time of renewal for the whole Church, for each community and every believer. Above all it is a time of grace.” – Pope Francis

CHECK OUR BULLETIN AND WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS

LENT AT OLS

Hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is mercy and fullness of redemption! - Psalm 130

Wednesday
March 5th

ASH WEDNESDAY

Mass Times:
7:00am
9:30am (School Mass)
12:00 noon
and 7:00pm

Every Friday
Starting March 7th

PRAY THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

7:00pm - 7:45pm
in the Upper Church

No RSVP needed

Saturday
March 8th

MEN'S RETREAT DAY: Surrender to the Eucharist

9:00am - 3:00pm
Offsite in Mendham, NJ! Includes
Mass, guest speaker Fr. Patrick
Seo, meals, and silent prayer time.

RSVP to Len:
Lmrozak@aol.com

+ Every Day + Holy Mass

Monday - Friday:
7:00am and 12:00pm

Saturday:
8:30am and 12:00pm

Sunday obligation:
5:30pm Saturday Vigil
8:00 am, 10:00am, 11:30am

Friday
March 14th

YOUNG ADULT THEOLOGY ON TAP with Dr. Eric Johnston

7:00pm at Saint Philomena
in Livingston, NJ

No RSVPs needed
Questions? Email
olschurchministries@gmail.com

Monday, March 24th - Wednesday, March 27th

PARISH MISSION: "RENEW OUR HOPE" WITH THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF THE RENEWAL

7:00pm - 9:00pm each evening

Join us for a 3-day parish retreat including Confessions
and Eucharistic Healing. You won't want to miss this!

No RSVPs needed
Questions? Email olschurchministries@gmail.com

+ Palm Sunday + April 13th

PROCESSION WITH PALMS
BEFORE 10AM FAMILY MASS
(weather permitting)

Meet in front of Rectory
by 9:45am!



Presented by
THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS
OF THE RENEWAL

OUR LADY OF SORROWS LENTEN MISSION:

"Renew our Hope!"

March 24th-26th, 2025



Renew



Our



Hope

The Franciscan Friars of the Renewal participate in Christ's renewal of all things through a life of radical prayer, service of the poor, and evangelization.

A Parish Mission is like an in-house retreat: it is a unique opportunity to deepen your faith, encounter Christ and His healing, and be inspired to live out your call as a disciple of Jesus.

Whether you're a newcomer or a lifelong member, these three days will be a momentous experience. Don't miss out—**mark your calendars, invite a friend, and prepare to be transformed.**

Mark Your Calendars - And please join us for:



Our Lady of Sorrows
Saint Patrick's Day Dinner

March 15th 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Our Lady of Sorrows Gymnasium

Bring the family for a night of fun and enjoy
Corned Beef and Cabbage from Town Hall Deli, Hot dogs and Chips for the kids.
Keg of Irish Beer, Wine, Soda, Coffee and Dessert
Irish Dancers, Bagpipers, Face Painting and Raffles to entertain adults and children

 **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED** 

Yes, we want to share in some Irish Cheer on March 15, 2025

Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone No.: _____
Number of people: Adults _____ Children _____
To be seated with (name of person's table/8 per table): _____
Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

If you would like to pay by credit card, please indicate below and you will be sent an invoice from Square Deposit

Pay by Credit card: _____ Email: _____

(\$30 per Adult or \$70 per Family)
* Family max is 2 adults and children under 16 years of age

Please send reservations
no later than March 10th
to:

Marli Craig
560 Summit Avenue
Maplewood, NJ 07040

or you can drop them off at
the parish office

Questions, Call Marli at:
(973) 943-0079 or you can
email her at:
marli@newtexas.com 



OLS Church and School Events
If you have not already done so, please RSVP for our **Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner** in our school gymnasium next Saturday, March 15th. With more people claiming Irish descent than who live in Ireland, unless you've taken a DNA test, you're likely a little Irish! Regardless, everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day so wear green and join us for some good beer and cheer! Reservations are required. You can drop off the form and payment to the parish office, or contact Marli Craig at (973) 943-0079 or marli@newtexas.com

The **OLS Fish Fry** is back in person for the first time since pre-Covid on Friday, March 21st from 6-8pm. Dine-in (OLS School cafeteria) or take-out! Please note: if you choose to dine-in it's BYOB.

To order, scan the QR code in the flyer, email OLSSchoolHSA@gmail.com, or visit ourladyofsorrowsschool.org/fishfry

OLS Fish Fry
from the Chippery in Union

FRIDAY, MARCH 21ST
6:00PM - 8:00PM
DINE IN (OLS CAFETERIA) OR TAKE OUT!
BYOB IF YOU DINE IN!
ORDER DUE DATE - MARCH 19TH

\$20
FISH AND CHIPS/COLE SLAW/TARTER SAUCE
\$5 EACH
PIZZA AND MAC AND CHEESE (DINE IN ONLY)

Click QR Code to Order



OLS Fish Fry — Our Lady of Sorrows School

