



# Our Lady of Sorrows

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[www.olschurch.com](http://www.olschurch.com)

Presented by  
**THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS  
OF THE RENEWAL**



JOIN OUR LADY OF SORROWS FOR OUR  
**LENTEN MISSION:**  
*"Renew our Hope!"*  
**March 24th-26th, 2025**

**Monday, March 24th**

***"Finding Hope Amidst Chaos":***

**Opening Talk and Adoration**

7:00pm in the Upper Church

**Tuesday, March 25th**

***"The Hope That Frees Us!":***

**Talk, Adoration, and Confessions**

7:00pm in the Upper Church

**Wednesday, March 26th**

***"Hope That Brings Us Healing":***

**Closing Talk**

**and Eucharistic Healing Service**

7:00pm in the Upper Church



**March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**  
***Third Sunday of Lent***

## *A Message from Fr. Andrew*

The year 313 marked a monumental victory in the history of Christianity because of one specific event: the Edict of Milan. It granted the legal status of Christianity. Constantine's issue of the edict halted organized empire-wide persecution and, therefore, allowed the explosive growth of Christianity across Europe. Ten years later, Christianity was made the Roman Empire's official religion. People were no longer worshipping with the risk of being thrown into the lion cage for their beliefs, and Christianity started leaving its fingerprint on every aspect of the culture. The Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Old St. Peter's Basilica, and the Basilica of Saint John Lateran are three incredible crowns of Christianity's triumph when commissioned by Constantine.

Things seemed great, but this historical trend didn't appeal as something spiritually beneficial to some people. Why? For those who yearned to be so united with Christ through the crown of martyrdom, the world seemed to start taking away the chances of imitating Christ, who had first died for them because of love. So, this small group of Christians started leaving the world and their cities to reconnect themselves with the world that mattered more to them and the world they dreamed of - heaven.

That's how early monasticism began in the desert. Some people started to protest what they perceived as worldliness taking over the church after her alleged triumph in the conversion of Constantine. Instead of becoming complacent about the world that now offered a comfortable Christian life, they entered the desert's desolation. Why? To meet God there in the land where the only source of consolation is God and to live in a state of "permanent retreat."

In war, when there is a need for damage assessment and repair, the soldiers fighting on the frontlines will consider a tactical withdrawal or, in other words, a retreat. What is a retreat in our spiritual life? It is to intentionally withdraw from whatever battles we are fighting as Christians so God may nourish us more abundantly.

Just like those who withdrew from cities to deserts and soldiers who withdrew from the front line to repair and better equip themselves, we often must go somewhere for our spiritual nourishment... but not always. From Monday to Wednesday (3/24, 3/25 and 3/26) our parish is offering three days of an "in-house retreat" in the church with talks that will inspire us under the healing power of our Lord in the Eucharist. This Parish Mission will be led by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (CFRs as they are known). These friars are the 21<sup>st</sup> century priests and brothers who model their lives after the radical life lived by St. Francis of Assisi. They will help to rekindle the fire within us that has been dulled by the secular world and the mundanity of our daily lives.

The theme of this year's parish mission is "Renew our Hope!" Each day we will view our relationship with the Lord through a different lens of hope, enlivening our hearts and rededicating them to God. My friends, I sincerely invite you to come to be with the Lord by joining us at this triduum of hope! With talks, adoration, confessions, and a Eucharistic Healing Service, the Lord wants to embrace and heal YOU during this wonderful season of Lent. We are so thrilled to abandon ourselves once again into the loving arms of our Lord through this three-day journey. We want to see you there, sharing tears of joy with you. Also, please invite those around you who are desperately in need of hope. Let us not keep this beautiful opportunity just to ourselves, but for all those who hunger and thirst for hope in the Lord.

Blessings,



## THE SACRIFICIAL GIVING OF OUR PARISHIONERS

<b>March 16</b>	<b>Week 38</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Collection	\$10,496	\$474,852
Budgeted	\$12,164	\$462,231
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Repairs and Maintenance</i>		
	\$2,847	

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

### Coffee and Donuts and Prayers

While sipping your coffee and enjoying your donut after Mass this Sunday, be sure to check out the chain of prayer intentions on the wall in St. Joseph Hall.



Our CCD kids were asked to write down who they are praying for this Lent. The responses are thoughtful, sweet and in some cases a little comical! When their prayer scrolls were laid out in the upper church, they went from the front pews all the way down the center aisle and out the front doors. Monday's scroll made it halfway to the street!

Who are you praying for this Lent? The prayers of children are powerful; with our participation and encouragement, they can move mountains.

**LENT 2025**

GIVE
FAST
PRAY

**"WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST"**

This Lent, as members of the OLS CCD Program and the Body of Christ, we are asked to:

**GIVE**

BY DONATING LOW-SUGAR CEREAL TO THE OLS FOOD PANTRY

...

**FAST**

BY MAKING A SACRIFICE OF SOME KIND TO HELP US REMEMBER THE NEEDS OF OTHERS

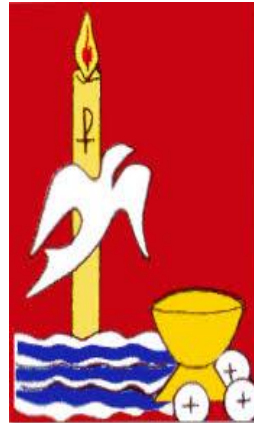
...

**PRAY**

BY KEEPING THE SPECIAL INTENTIONS OF OUR CLASSMATES IN OUR PRAYERS

### OCIA [formerly RCIA] Important News

Seven persons are preparing to enter into the fullness of the Catholic faith this Easter season.

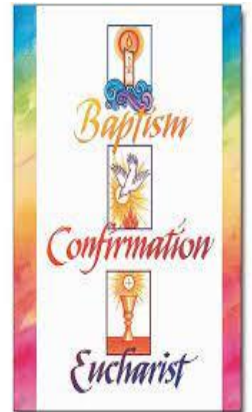


Two will receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Five will receive Confirmation and the Eucharist at the 11:30am Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday – April 27<sup>th</sup>.

There is a special basket in the vestibule containing bookmarks with the catechumens' names. We ask that you take one and pray for them as they begin their life as Catholics.

### 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.



### Meet Our Staff

**Rev. Brian X. Needles**, Pastor

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**Rev. Andrew Lee**, Parochial Vicar

[frlee527@gmail.com](mailto: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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**Mary Beth Zurat**, Secretary

[marybeth.olschurch@gmail.com](mailto:marybeth.olschurch@gmail.com)

### 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 31<sup>st</sup> or the morning of Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> and will be delivered to the Family Promise office on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

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).

There are 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](mailto:annanelson202@gmail.com)



### Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord



Tuesday, **March 25<sup>th</sup>** is the **Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord**, which recalls the historical event of the Angel Gabriel appearing to the Virgin Mary.

It celebrates the Incarnation, making this solemnity not only a Marian solemnity, but first and foremost a Christological one. Though Christmas commemorates the birth of Christ, the Annunciation commemorates the Incarnation within the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. – Adapted from <https://mycatholic.life/>



### VIGIL, SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025

5:30 PM People of the Parish

### SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025

8:00 AM John M. Plesnik  
10:00 AM All Rosarians Living and Deceased  
11:30 AM Elizabeth Giuliano Magnes –  
40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2025

7:00 AM Maria Landi  
12:00 PM Max Philip Goldstein

### TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025

7:00 AM People of the Parish  
12:00 PM Fr. Emmanuel Agu – Special Intention

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025

7:00 AM People of the Parish  
12:00 PM Richard Haley – 38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025

7:00 AM People of the Parish  
12:00 PM Carol Barry-Austin

### FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025

7:00 AM George Endrich  
12:00 PM Gary Clemens

### SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025

8:30 AM People of the Parish  
12:00 PM Cathy Craig

### VIGIL, SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025

5:30 PM People of the Parish

### SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025

8:00 AM The Brutofsky Family  
10:00 AM Rosemary Quinn Malloy  
11:30 AM Geraldine A. Frey

### Pray for the Departed



Let us remember those who have passed away recently at OLS: Esther Klotz

*Eternal rest grant unto Esther, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she 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, 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



As we know, the third pillar of Lent is almsgiving. One way in which we can fulfill this spiritual obligation is by donating to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. It's imperative that we have funds in reserve to meet the needs of our community members in times of financial distress.

***Whoever possesses the goods of this world, and sees his brother to be in need, and yet closes his heart to him: in what way does the love of God abide in him?  
(1 John 3:17)***

## **Helping Those in Need: Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

*"Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine,  
you did for me." (Mt 25:40)*

Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering. This is done in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and its patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

The Society is one of the largest charitable organizations in the country. The purpose of the Society is to bear witness to the love of Christ. Our parish group does this by offering financial assistance to individuals and families in the South Orange/Maplewood area who are temporarily unable to meet their current living expenses.

Every effort is made to provide this assistance in ways that respect the dignity of the recipient and the strictest confidentiality of the relationship between the recipient and the Society. People of all backgrounds and religions can receive assistance.



***Email [OLSSStvincentdepaul@gmail.com](mailto:OLSSStvincentdepaul@gmail.com) if you are in need of assistance.***

The Society cannot do this alone. We are therefore most grateful for the monetary donations we receive in order to carry out our work. Donations may be sent to: Our Lady of Sorrows Church, c/o Society of St. Vincent de Paul, 217 Prospect Street, South Orange, NJ 07079. Checks should be made out to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Thank you for helping us bear witness to the love of Christ.

If you have not already done so, sign up for a **FREE!** subscription to Formed ([www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org)). Follow the instructions below. Formed has some wonderful programs for adults, children and families to enrich your Lenten journey.

# FORMED

## CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND

Take advantage of this great opportunity to grow in your faith anytime, anywhere!

Want to learn more about the Catholic faith but find it hard to get to a scheduled class? Looking for an audio book to listen to for that next trip? Want a new bible study for your small group? Need some wholesome movies to watch that will inspire you? Want resources to help reinforce the faith for your children at home?

Our parish has purchased a **Formed.org** subscription to give parishioners access to a wealth of content about Catholic teaching, spirituality, and saints. Please

If you have not already signed up for your free membership, follow these simple steps:

1. Go to [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup)
2. When prompted, sign up as a parishioner
3. Select your parish (using our ZIP Code – 07079 – is easiest)
4. Register with your name and email
5. Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED at no cost at all.



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