



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

March 30th, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

A Message from Fr. Brian

I am writing this column on Monday, March 24th, which is the day that our Lenten Parish Mission begins. While it's impossible to know the many graces that will have come to our parishioners by means of the Mission, I am quite confident to say – even before it begins – that the Mission will have been an incredible moment in the faith lives of many of our parishioners and for this parish as a whole. The Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (www.franciscanfriars.com), who led the Mission, are an incredible group of gifted preachers. I have heard them preach on many occasions and I have always been moved by their preaching and motivated to deepen my own faith life after listening to them. I know that I speak for all of you who had an opportunity to attend the Mission how grateful we all are – as individuals and as a parish. And I know that we are now ready to continue our Lenten journey with our hope renewed, our faith strengthened, and our friendship with Christ deepened. Thank you, Friars of the Renewal!

This Sunday is Laetare Sunday. The Latin word *laetare* means “to rejoice” and the opening antiphon of this weekend’s Mass contains the words “*Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.*” I – and I hope all of you – are rejoicing over the success of our Parish Mission and the impetus it gives us to deepen our life of faith and better prepare our souls for the paschal mystery of the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

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Jesus preached more than 30 parables, and I suspect that none is more beloved than that of the Return of the Prodigal Son, which we hear about in this Sunday’s Gospel. As we all know, the son ran off with his share of the inheritance that would have come to him upon the eventual death of his father, and he squandered that inheritance. When, as the Gospel puts it, he finally “came to his senses,” he resolved to return to his father and ask his father’s forgiveness. The story is a beautiful one which Jesus uses to illustrate that no matter how much we rebel (sin) against our Heavenly Father, we are always welcomed home. Part of that process of returning home involves being repentant of our sins and seeking the Father’s forgiveness, including in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession). Please take advantage of this life-giving Sacrament! Receive the forgiveness of your sins that Jesus won for you on the Cross and by so doing make a joyful return to the Father’s house. On Tuesday of our Parish Mission, we had the opportunity to go to confession (I’ll have gone to confession myself that evening). If you couldn’t make that evening of the Mission, please know that we have confession every Saturday from 12:45 – 2:00. You can also ask any priest after Mass to hear your confession.

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As you’ll see in this bulletin, our parish is lagging behind in the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal. Thank you to all those who have already made a gift/pledge. We have made our goal the last 4 years, after many years of failing to make our goal. Making our goal not only sustains the Archdiocese of Newark in its mission of making Jesus better known, loved, and served, but it also assists our own parish. If (when!) we make our goal, we will receive a 2% reduction in the rate of assessments we owe to the archdiocese. 2% may not seem like a lot, but by making our goal it actually saves the parish about \$18,000, which is an enormous help to us. I therefore once again call upon your generosity and ask that you prayerfully consider a gift/pledge to the Annual Appeal. Thank you!

Joyful Blessings,



THE SACRIFICIAL GIVING OF OUR PARISHIONERS

March 23	Week 39	YTD
Collection	\$13,577	\$488,429
Budgeted	\$12,164	\$474,395

Candles \$387

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Archbishop's Annual Appeal Update

Time to take our temperature! Every two weeks we will post the thermometer to show how close we are to reaching our Annual Appeal goal of \$85,107. As of today, we have about \$50k to go. If we collect this amount by June 30th, our annual assessment due to the Archdiocese will drop from 18% to 16%. Because we made our goal last year, this saved the parish about \$18,000. What all of this means is that, in helping countless people within the Archdiocese who benefit from the many ministries and programs of the Archdiocese, we also aid our own parish.

We kindly ask you to consider contributing to the Annual Appeal. You may scan the QR code or visit: rcan.org/sharing Please be sure to designate Our Lady of Sorrows – South Orange as your parish. Thank you!

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal

Please help OLS to reach our goal!

Total donors
as of 3-24-25:
61

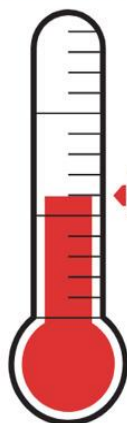
Total # of OLS families:
2322

To make a gift:
<https://rcan.org/sharing/>



Annual Appeal

\$85,107



Raised
\$35,929

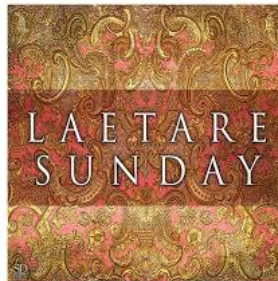
Request a Mass

A reminder that you can now request Masses online either by visiting <https://olschurch.com/request-a-mass/> or scanning the QR code.



"It would be easier for the world to survive without the sun than to do so without the Holy Mass." - St. Padre Pio

Rejoice...it's Laetare Sunday!



The Fourth Sunday of Lent is known as Laetare Sunday. Laetare, Latin for "to rejoice." The rose-colored vestments that the clergy wear symbolizes the virtue of joy, the joy that we will experience on Easter.

Laetare Sunday is the Church's way of giving us a "shot in the arm" as we approach the darkness and horror of the days through Good Friday and Holy Saturday. It's an opportunity to savor and keep in the back of our minds what awaits us on Easter Sunday — the reality that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, and that our hearts will always be filled with joy!

- Taken from www.simplycatholic.com

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

We have Eucharistic Adoration Mondays and Fridays from 12:30pm – 3:00pm, concluding with the Divine Mercy Chaplet. As we approach Passiontide, let's consider spending some quiet time in prayer and reflection before Our Lord in the exposed Eucharist.



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

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

sorrowsschool@gmail.com

Preston Dibble, Director of Music

olsmusician@gmail.com

Karlene Campbell, Nursery Director

karlene@thenurseryatols.org

Charles Noun, Business Manager

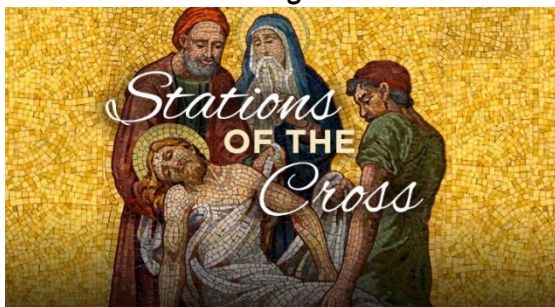
charlesnoun@olschurch.com

Mary Beth Zurat, Secretary

marybeth.olschurch@gmail.com

Stations of the Cross

If you have not already done so this Lent, please consider coming to **Stations of the Cross** on **Fridays at 7pm**. Join us as we prayerfully meditate on Christ's Passion and Death. In the words of St. Paul of the Cross, *"The Passion of Christ is the greatest and most stupendous work of Divine Love. The greatest and most overwhelming work of God's love."*



Scouts Sale

Our Scouts BSA Troop 99 will once again be selling flowers and Palm Crosses after all Palm Sunday Masses (including the Saturday 5:30pm Mass).

To order in advance (no later than April 9th), please scan the QR code in the flyer or visit <https://tinyurl.com/T99Flowers>

OCIA Bookmarks



You are asked to pray for those who will be coming into the fullness of the Catholic Church,

Jessica Shaw

BenjaminWarehime

Mihir Jacinto

Yadram Mangar

Natasha Cadeau

Christine Moloney

Rashada George

Hopefully while in Church this Sunday you grabbed a bookmark listing the names of our Elect (2) and Candidates (5) who will be entering the fullness of the Catholic faith during the Easter Vigil and on Divine Mercy Sunday (4/27) respectively.

We ask that you pray for Jessica, Benjamin, Mihir, Yadram, Natasha, Christine, and Rashada as they prepare their hearts to receive Jesus and the Holy Spirit and anticipate the joy of living a sacramental life.



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

MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2025

7:00 AM Cecilia Isekenegbe and
 All Souls in Purgatory
 12:00 PM Ann Turalski – Special Intention

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025

7:00 AM Mary Cavallaro, Frank Cavallaro and
 William Cody, Sr.
 12:00 PM Jim Smith and Donn Reinke

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025

7:00 AM Josh Pascual – Special Intention
 12:00 PM Emmanuel Eugene and
 All Souls in Purgatory

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025

7:00 AM Lawrence Gallo
 12:00 PM Robert Van Nattan, III

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025

7:00 AM Veronica Akaeke and
 All Souls in Purgatory
 12:00 PM Barbara Harrigan

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025

8:30 AM Ralph and Filomena Ferrace
 12:00 PM Carmen P. Marsillo

VIGIL, SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025

5:30 PM Ellen Ann Schiavone

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2025

8:00 AM People of the Parish
 10:00 AM James Mulreed
 11:30 AM All Rosarians Living and Deceased

Pray for the Departed



Let us remember those who have passed away recently:
 Sr. Regis Keane

*Eternal rest grant unto her,
 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.

This week's candle is for the special intention of Audain Serrette and family.



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



Holy Saturday

EGG HUNT & FAMILY SOCIAL

April 19, 2025



Egg Hunt

Immediately following the 9:45 Blessing of the Easter Baskets
Church Lawn Near the Playground

Children of All Ages are Welcome - Little Ones will Hunt Separately
(In case of rain, the egg hunt will be held in St. Joseph's Hall)



Family Social

Join Us After the Hunt for:
Light Breakfast and Refreshments
Holy Week Crafts and Activities for the Kids

Questions? Email Colleen McGeehin at colleenmcgeehin@gmail.com
Suggested Donation - \$10 per child, no more than \$25 per family - Collected at Event

**HOLY SATURDAY
APRIL 19TH**

9:45 AM

**UPPER
CHURCH**

OUR LADY OF SORROWS ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE EASTER BASKETS

ŚWIĘCONKA



EASTER BASKETS BLESSING

WHAT IS ŚWIĘCONKA?

- Święconka is a traditional Polish custom.
- It is pronounced "Sveen-Tsonka".
- Święconka refers to the Easter foods taken to church, in baskets lined with linens, for blessing on Holy Saturday.
- Each food in the basket is symbolic of the life, death, or resurrection of Christ.
- Święconka also refers to the meal at which the blessed foods are eaten on Easter morning.
- This meal is considered the first breakfast in the traditions of many nationalities, serving to "break-the-fast" of the season of Lent.
- Święconka is a meal of celebration and joy.



WHAT SHOULD I PUT IN MY EASTER BASKET?

For those wishing to participate in the Święconka, the following is a guide to familiarize yourself with this traditional Polish custom. Feel free to alter the foods listed below and bring your own interpretation of the Easter breakfast in a basket to be blessed.

CUSTOMARY EASTER BREAKFAST FOODS

Hardboiled Eggs – Eggs have long been regarded as a symbol of new life. The emergence of a newborn chick from the shell is a sign of the new life Christ provided through his resurrection. It has also been compared to His emergence from the tomb on Easter morning. Poles cut the first egg into pieces so that all may share the egg, symbolizing our sharing of Christ with each other. **Salt** is a symbol of prosperity, and that we are the "salt of the earth" (St. Matthew 5:13) and is sprinkled on the egg. **Pepper** and **horseradish** are reminiscent of our Lord's passion and may be sprinkled on the eggs.

Ham, Pork, Kielbasa All of these types of pork were forbidden under the dietary codes of the Old Testament. Since our Lord comes to fulfill the law, the old makes way for the new. One main element of the Święconka ceremony is the blessing of those formerly forbidden foods, emphasizing the "New Covenant" which Jesus Christ established for all by His death and resurrection.

Bread or Babka – This is a round loaf of bread topped with a frosting cross. This symbolizes the bread of the Eucharistic meal.

Butter (or Pascal) Lamb – The lamb is featured carrying a banner emblazoned with a cross. The symbolism of the lamb has many meanings. Our Lord proclaimed, "I am the Good Shepherd." (John 10:11). St. John the Baptist proclaimed, "Behold the Lamb of God." (John 1:29). The lamb, a sacrificial animal in ancient times, portrays Christ as victorious through this presentation. This lamb may also be made of dough or cast plaster.



Vinegar – Reminds us of the sour wine given to Jesus as He hung upon the cross.

Wine – Reminds us of Jesus' blood, particularly His request to drink of His blood.

Questions: Contact Jen Noll at jennollols@gmail.com