



# *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**

**April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
***Fifth Sunday of Lent***

## *A Message from Fr. Brian*

From the vault! I wrote this column last year for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent and I'm repeating it this year because many people were (are) curious as to why we cover the crucifix and statues during the last 2 weeks of Lent. So, you can use these explanations to impress your friends as to how much you know about our beautiful Catholic traditions!

For many centuries, the last 2 weeks of Lent were referred to as Passiontide. Before the reform of the liturgy, what we now celebrate as the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (this Sunday) was referred to as Passion Sunday. The current calendar combines Passion Sunday and Palm Sunday into one week, but the practice of referring to the final 2 weeks of Lent as Passiontide is still very common. The Church allows for the veiling during Passiontide. Why? Well, there are several very good reasons. First, the traditional reason was found in the Gospel passage formerly read on Passion Sunday (John 8:46-59). We read in that passage: "...*Jesus hid Himself, and went out of the temple.*" Jesus was threatened with stoning for claiming to be the Son of God and so He hid (veiled) Himself from view. He wouldn't appear again in Jerusalem until His triumphant entry on Palm Sunday.

Another reason for veiling is that the Cross we now recognize as the emblem of Christ's victory was first seen as an instrument of humiliation and suffering. In His passion, the divinity of Christ was almost completely obscured. It was virtually impossible to recognize Jesus as God while He hung on the Cross. But so too was His humanity veiled, so enormous was His suffering. Battered, beaten, bruised, and bloody, Jesus was living out the words from the prophet Isaiah that prefigured His own agony: "*I am a worm, not a man, scorned by men, despised by the people.*" (Is. 22:7) So beaten and bloodied was He, that His humanity was hardly recognizable. So, His wounds hid – veiled – both His divinity and humanity. The purple cloth of the veil over the crucifix highlights this sad reality.

Another reason: the veiling of the crucifix as well as statues should force us to imagine the darkness and hopelessness of a world not redeemed by Christ's death on the Cross. Not being able to see the crucifix and statues during these last couple weeks helps us to better focus on the fact that without Christ's sacrifice, sin and death would have complete control over us. But with His Death and Resurrection, we are given hope, knowing that sin and death do not have the final word, but instead eternal life is made possible (and saints – and their statues – also become possible!).

Another reason: they remind us that something momentous is drawing near. But with the veiling of the crucifix and statues, our senses are deprived of the beauty of these symbols. Our senses will be slowly awakened by next Sunday's red vestments and palm branches; and then by the white vestments and ceremony of Holy Thursday; and then also by the somberness of the barren sanctuary on Good Friday. But our senses will be fully alive when the darkness of Good Friday and Holy Saturday give way to the great Easter Vigil. We will then celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and all our senses will be oriented toward the hope and joy made possible by the Resurrection. At that time, the veil which once covered our crucifix will have been removed and the veil over our eyes and other senses will have been lifted and we can once again sing out a joyous Alleluia.

Be sure to enter into the sublime mystery of all of this by your participation in our Holy Week and Easter liturgies. Refer to the cover of next week's bulletin and you will see the many opportunities you have to accompany Jesus as His divinity is both veiled and unveiled in these most holy of weeks.

Passiontide Blessings,



**THE SACRIFICIAL GIVING OF  
OUR PARISHIONERS**

<b>March 30</b>	<b>Week 40</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Collection	\$11,625	\$500,054
Budgeted	\$12,164	\$486,559
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection Catholic Relief Services \$2,540		

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**



A vertical poster for Palm Sunday at OLS. It features a large brown cross in the center, flanked by green palm fronds. The text is in green and brown fonts. At the bottom, it mentions the 5:30pm Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses.

**PALM SUNDAY**  
**at OLS**  
**April 13, 2025**  
Procession with Palms  
before the 10am Family Mass  
(weather permitting)  
**Meet in front of the Rectory**  
**at 9:45am!**  
  
*Our 5:30pm Saturday Vigil,  
8:00 and 11:30am Sunday Masses  
will begin at their regular times*

**Courtesy Parking Request**

On Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, when crowds are larger than usual, we kindly ask that you **enter the lot only via Prospect Street** and **exit the lot only via Academy Street**. This will help to ensure a one-way flow of traffic and prevent a bottleneck at the top of the parking lot, enabling all those coming to Mass to find parking in a timely manner. Thank you for your assistance!

**Welcome to the Family!**

Four new members were initiated into our Christian Community last Sunday. They are: Noa Riley Guzzo, Grace Celine Lynch, Joseph Carmine Boccia, Giuliana Rose Mascola. We congratulate their parents, godparents, and families.



**Verso Cristo Young Adults Service Night**

Join Verso Cristo on Friday, April 11th and live out the corporal works of mercy this Lent by providing a hot drink and food to our homeless neighbors at Penn Station in Newark.

Meet at OLS in the lower level at either 6:30pm to help prepare materials, or 7:00 for a short reflection and shared carpool over to the station. Email Stephanie Sonnick at [olschurchministries@gmail.com](mailto:olschurchministries@gmail.com) with any questions.

*Verso Cristo is a network of area parishes committed to building up community and discipleship for young adults between the ages of 20 and 35. We offer monthly events, service opportunities, and seasonal small group ministries. We are graciously supported by Our Lady of Sorrows in South Orange and Saint Philomena in Livingston and open to all!*





### 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)

### Request a Mass



A reminder that you can now request Masses online either by scanning the QR code or visiting:

<https://olschurch.com/request-a-mass/>

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



### Rosary Society



The Rosary Society provides an opportunity for members of our parish to come together in prayer. Every meeting begins with the recitation of the rosary followed by a brief discussion and light refreshments. Their next meeting is this Wednesday, April 9th at 7:00pm in St. Joseph Hall.

This month they will be discussing their spring service project and future day trip to Blessed Miriam Teresa's crypt in Convent Station. If you are interested in participating in any of these activities, come on Wednesday. All are invited! Questions? Reach out to Kathy Shelffo at (201) 563-4276

### Scouts Sale

A reminder that our Scouts BSA Troop 99 will once again be selling flowers and Palm Crosses after all Masses (including the Saturday 5:30pm Vigil Mass) next Sunday – Palm Sunday.

To pre-order, you must do so by April 9<sup>th</sup>. Please scan the QR code in the flyer or visit <https://tinyurl.com/T99Flowers>



**SUPPORT**  
Scouts BSA Troop 99  
**Palm Crosses & Spring Flowers**  
**Sale**

Our Lady of Sorrows  
217 Prospect St.  
South Orange, NJ

**SAT, April 12 6:00-7:00PM**  
**SUN, April 13 8:30AM-1:00PM**

**SCAN TO PRE-ORDER BY APRIL 9**

<https://tinyurl.com/T99Flowers>

**\$13 EACH**

## *Masses For The Week*



### 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

### MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2025

7:00 AM Elio Nick Nicolichia  
12:00 PM Stanislawa Wierzbicki

### TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025

7:00 AM Bernadette Ezuduemoih and  
Family and All Souls in Purgatory  
12:00 PM Suzanne Greydanus –  
Special Intention

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2025

7:00 AM Ellen Schiavone  
12:00 PM Sr. Regis Keane

### THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025

7:00 AM Marlene Etienne –  
Special Intention  
12:00 PM Emilia Franzonia

### FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025

7:00 AM Elvira Cody  
12:00 PM Roman Nowacki

### SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025

8:30 AM Kevin B. Morgan  
12:00 PM The Olson Family –  
Special Intention

### VIGIL, SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025

5:30 PM Juan Rego

### SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025

8:00 AM DePaola, Deehan & Salvante Families  
10:00 AM People of the Parish  
11:30 AM Grace McGrath

## 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.

This week's candle is in memory of Carmen Marsillo requested by Jimmy Marsillo.



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:jennollols@gmail.com)