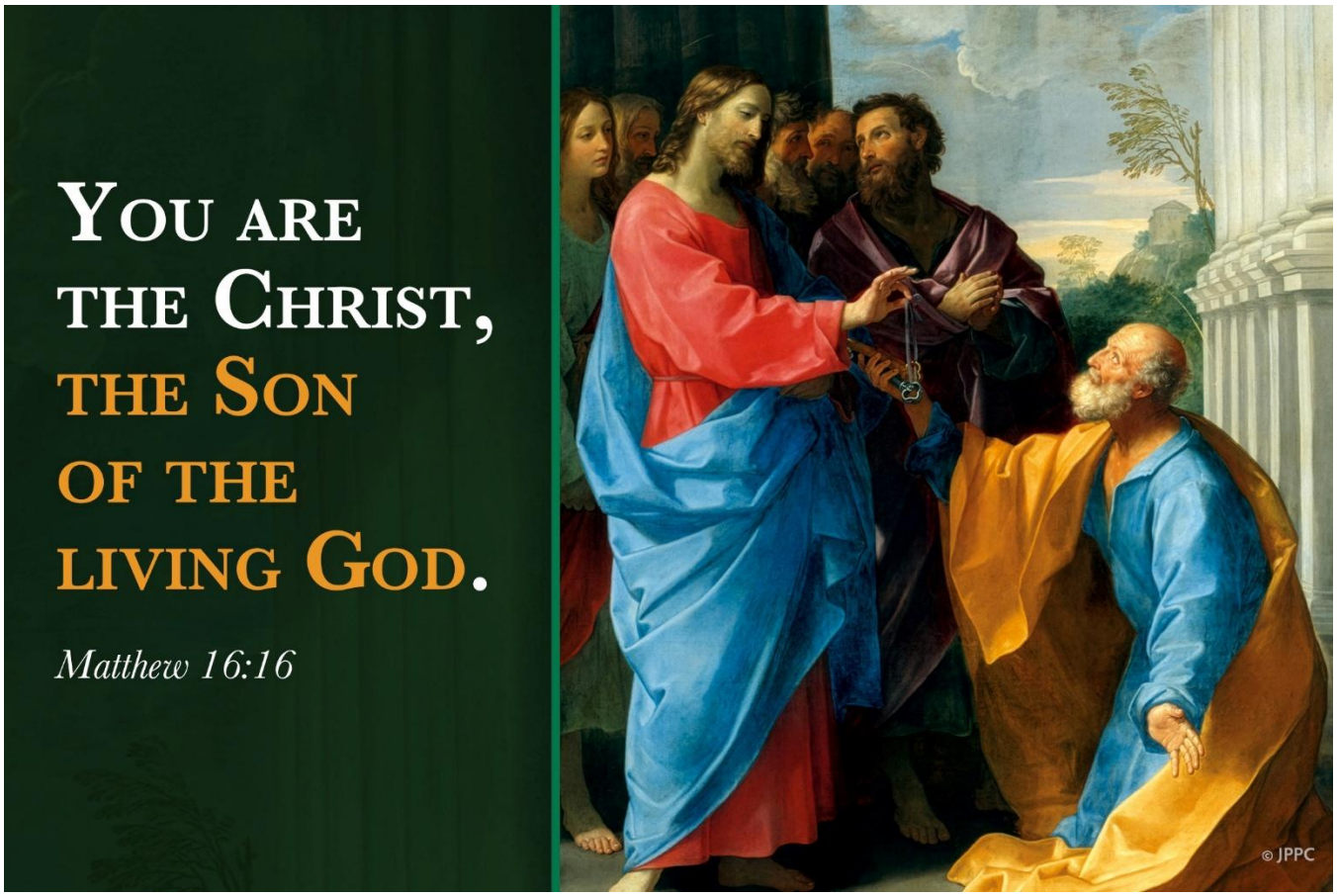
Our Lady of Sorrows

217 Prospect Street, South Orange, NJ 07079

973-763-5454

www.olschurch.com



MASSES: *Saturday Vigil: 5:30 pm; Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am 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

August 23, 2026

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Message from Fr. Andrew

There are differences between Catholicism and Protestantism. It is their motto of "Sola Scriptura and Sola Fide" that renders our disagreements (although we are right, and unfortunately, they are wrong!). This translates to "Scripture alone and Faith alone". With the second part of this motto, we totally agree with Martin Luther, the one who started the Protestant movement against the Catholic Church, in that we cannot save ourselves, and we are made righteous and are forgiven through the merits of Jesus Christ alone. Yes, it is our faith in Him that saves us, which must be translated into the Christ-like lifestyle we choose to live because of our faith in Him. However, the first part, "Sola Scriptura," is something we disagree with.

His notion of "Sola Scriptura" refers to the faith based on the words explicitly written in the Bible alone, disregarding the Sacred Tradition. On the other hand, we Catholics base our creed on both Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. Why? Because the development and formation of the Sacred Scripture happened in the context of the early Christian communities, which means there were pre-existing Christian communities that helped shape the current Bible we use today. Early Christian communities were essential for discerning which books were truly inspired by the Holy Spirit, including the four Gospels we read today. Sacred Tradition, therefore, is the words and living teachings first taught by Christ Himself, handed down to His apostles, then to the early Christians who preserved them through the help of the Holy Spirit. With that, as much as the Sacred Scripture matters, so do the words and teachings of the members of the Early Church, who were either eyewitnesses of Christ Himself or the disciples of the first Apostles sent out by Christ Himself. Who would know Jesus better than them?!

Today's Gospel is all about the institution of the Papacy. Christ, by proclaiming that He will build His Church on the rock of Peter, has made Him the first and the leader among the twelve. He is even given the power to bind and loose, so that whatever he binds on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever he loosens on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Unfortunately, Protestants deny Peter being the first Pope because there isn't an explicit term "papacy" mentioned in the Sacred Scripture. However, we Catholics, with the help of the teachings of the early Fathers of the Church who handed down to us the Sacred Tradition, have grounds for knowing this was the moment when Christ instituted the Papacy for His Church.

St. Ignatius of Antioch, the first century Father of the Church, and the disciple of John the Evangelist wrote in his letter to the Roman Christian community in year 110: *"to the church also which holds the presidency, in the location of the country of the Romans, worthy of God, worthy of honor, worthy of blessing, worthy of praise, worthy of success, worthy of sanctification, and, because you hold the presidency in love, named after Christ and named after the Father" (Letter to the Romans 1:1 [A.D. 110])".* Also, we read the letter of St. Optatus, a 3rd-century saint who fought eagerly against the Donatists, who opposed the papacy in North Africa: *"You cannot deny that you are aware that in the city of Rome the episcopal chair was given first to Peter; the chair in which Peter sat, the same who was head—that is why he is also called Cephas ['Rock']—of all the apostles; the one chair in which unity is maintained by all" (The Schism of the Donatists 2:2 [A.D. 367]).*

The words of the early bishops of the Church are consistent that St. Peter was given the authority as the head, and as the head of the Apostles, he ministered to the Church of Rome. That authority and the chair were succeeded by the popes who followed Peter's footsteps, reaching all the way to our current pope, Leo XIV. Friends, as we contemplate today's Gospel, let's always remember that we cannot be Catholic, one united with the Church of Christ, without uniting ourselves to our Pope. It's not about preferences, but all about recognizing the pontifical office instituted by Christ Himself. Before we end the day today, let's make sure to pray a sincere Our Father for our Pope Leo!

Blessings,

THE SACRIFICIAL GIVING OF OUR PARISHIONERS

Due to summer vacation schedules and early bulletin submissions, the numbers for 8/16 and 8/23 will be reported in the August 30th bulletin.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Upcoming Rosary Society Meeting

When we pray the Rosary together, it becomes a powerful instrument in Our Blessed Mother's hands. OLS' Rosary Society meets on the second Wednesday of each month to publicly share this beautiful devotion, joining in prayer and then enjoying fellowship with one another.

We warmly invite you to be part of our shared spiritual journey (no matter where you are on your own path) on Wednesday, September 9th at 7:00pm in the Lower Church. Together, we will offer our prayers for all parish children as they begin a new school year, and for our young adults who are starting or returning to college.

If you've never prayed the Rosary before, you are especially welcome. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn and meet fellow parishioners in a supportive and friendly setting. If you have any questions, email Kathy Shelffo at kshelffo@olschurch.com

"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*

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

A reminder that we have Eucharistic Adoration on Mondays and Fridays directly following the noon Mass and concluding at 3 with the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.

Come spend some quiet time with the Lord.

The Miraculous Medal Perpetual Novena

Did you know that for more than 90 years, the Miraculous Medal Novena has been prayed every Monday at The Basilica Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Philadelphia? It began in 1930 and has become a tradition that now unites thousands of people around the world in prayer each week.

The Novena prayers themselves were written in the 1920s and honor Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. The Perpetual Novena refers to the practice of praying these prayers without interruption – a devotion that has continued unbroken since December 8, 1930. Through this Novena, Mary draws us closer to her Son, Jesus, offering hope, comfort, and powerful intercession for all who call upon her.

Here at OLS, we pray the perpetual novena every Saturday after the 8:30am and 12:00 Noon Masses. The novena booklets (pictured below) are in baskets at the back at the church. Please note the sticker asking you to return the booklets to the baskets. Unfortunately, they go missing over time diminishing our supply.

We understand the desire to have these prayers at the ready at home, however, the booklets have been purchased and donated to us by a very devoted and generous parishioner. As you can imagine, regularly having to replenish the supply is costly. Therefore, we ask you to join us as a community in prayer on Saturdays, but to return the booklets to the baskets when you leave. Thank you!

-Excerpts above from www.miraculousmedal.org

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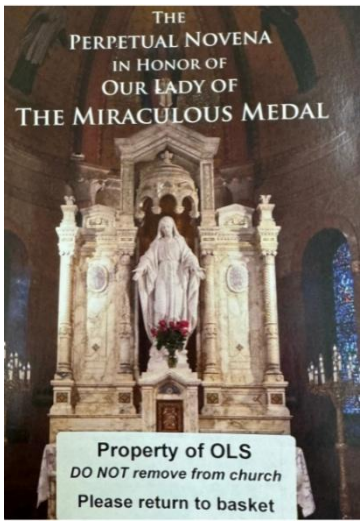

Meet Our Staff

Rev. Brian X. Needles, Pastor
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Rev. Robert Suszko, Weekend Assistant
Rev. Patrick Seo, Priest in Residence
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Mary Beth Zurat, Secretary
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An August month for Our Lady

How many of you knew that August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary?

During the Second World War, Pope Pius XII put

the whole world under the special protection of our Savior's Mother by consecrating it to her Immaculate Heart, and in 1944 he decreed that in the future the whole Church should celebrate the **Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.**

O God, who prepared a fit dwelling place for the Holy Spirit in the Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, graciously grant that through her intercession we may be a worthy temple of your glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

- *Above adapted from* www.catholicculture.org

A friendly reminder

Next Sunday we will welcome five new members into our Christian community. What a joy it is for their parents and an honor for their godparents.

Along those lines, we want to remind you that to receive a **Sponsor Certificate** for Baptism or Confirmation, you must be registered in the parish for a minimum of six months.

Sponsor Certificates indicate that the individual is a registered parishioner and a practicing Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

If you have been asked to be a godparent or confirmation sponsor, please call the parish office to obtain a certificate.

Do I belong to you? 2026 edition

Last year we asked you if you recognized any of the items in our office "Lost and Found." This year we have both continued unclaimed items AND new items to show you. Never a dull discovery here at OLS!

Are any of these yours? If so, inquiring minds want to know how you've been getting into your house, let alone driving your car without your house and car keys. Have you been unable to locate the keys because you left your glasses here? Are you too bereft to look for any of these items because you've been mourning the loss of your beloved unicorn hat?

Not pictured is a green rain jacket that has taken up residence in St. Joseph Hall. It's been here for so long that we're considering naming it and making it an honorary staff member.

In all seriousness, please let the parish office know if any of these items belong to you or if you've misplaced something else. Our Lost and Found box is filled to the brim so we will likely be purging everything by the end of the summer to make room for more exciting discoveries this fall!

VIGIL SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026
5:30 PM People of the Parish

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2026
8:00 AM Priscilla Ntigbu, Cecilia Ukusare, Veronika Akaeke and All Souls in Purgatory
10:00 AM Juliana Celony Philippe and deceased members of the Celony Family
11:30 AM Patrick O'Connors

MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2026
7:00 AM Paul Sidwa
12:00 PM Fernando Guerrero

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2026
7:00 AM Lyndon Bryce
12:00 PM Phil Mistretta

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2026
7:00 AM Special Intention to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
12:00 PM Geraldine Fernand

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2026
7:00 AM Anna Greydanus – Special Intention
12:00 PM Jeanne Calabrese – 20th Anniversary

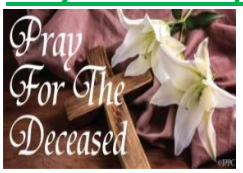
FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2026
7:00 AM Catherine Sullivan – 1st Anniversary
12:00 PM Reginald Eugene and deceased members of the Eugene Family

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026
8:30 AM Michael McMahon
12:00 PM Rozalija Somkaite

VIGIL SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026
5:30 PM People of the Parish

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026
8:00 AM Bernadatte Ezuduemoih & Family – Special Intention & All Souls in Purgatory
10:00 AM In Thanksgiving to God for all things
11:30 AM Ida and Russell Benigno

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 or for a special intention.

This week's candle is for the special intentions of Ann Poggioli.

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please keep the following in your prayers:
Bill Aber, Logan Francis Amon and Tyler Joseph Amon, Rita Arena, Diana Baseman, Patricia Bee, Roy Bell, Ellen Bowden, Daniel Callaghan, Julia Callaghan, Robert Charles, Bekim Colaku, John Colaku, Alice Cosack, Michael Elliot, Nicholas Elliott, George Richmond Files Jr., Norma Gonzalez, Xavier Hartman, Beth Hebron, Deborah Hebron, Mimi Hermann, Norma Hermann, Carmen "Guy" Juliano, Elizabeth Mary, Patricia McDonnell, Neville Moore, Megan More, Kathleen Mullan, Kate Mullin, Kathleen Roche Muscle, Ludgarda Rosa, Anne Sanchez, Julian Sherman, Marie Somers, Elizabeth Stuart, Donna T., Kathi Thiemer, Quentin Tiemeyer, Stephanie Windsor

PARISH CHOIR WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The OLS Parish Choir welcomes new members this Fall. Singers of all ages and skills are welcome – most especially men and altos!

Psalm 95:1
Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Please contact Preston Dibble for more information:
pdibble@olschurch.com

Save the Date!
OUR LADY OF SORROWS
PARISH
PICNIC
FAITH • COMMUNITY • FUN FOR ALL!
Sunday
SEPTEMBER 20TH
12:30 PM – 4:30 PM
Food • Games • Music
& More!
WATCH THE BULLETIN FOR
FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO RSVP