



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

December 29, 2024
Feast of the Holy Family

A Message from Fr. Andrew

“I, N., take you, N., to be my wife/husband. I promise to be faithful to you, in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love you and to honor you all the days of my life.”

The statement above comes from one of the formulas of declaration of consent at the sacrament of matrimony. I often witness couples tearing up as they open their lips to declare their consent. When you try to meditate and chew on the words above, it is not too hard to understand why it brings couples to tears. One man and a woman, two individuals with unique wounds, choose to enter each other's wounds and make them their own. Their declaration of love and faithfulness, without condition, mirrors the love of Christ for humanity and His Church. This sacrament, a beautiful participation in the mission and mystery of Christlike love, is not a mere contract but a sacred covenant.

Today, as we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, I couldn't help but bring all of us to these profound words of consent. Why? Because the Sacrament of Matrimony is the first chapter of the family's life and the Christian home. Christian family built on the foundation of the sacrament of matrimony is “the domestic church, a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and Christian charity” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1666).

The Holy Family of Nazareth is the ideal model of every Christian family. The tiny house in Nazareth was filled with Christlike love. Joseph and Mary loved each other precisely how the words of consent describe what love towards a spouse must look like. Jesus, our God, advanced in wisdom, age, and favor before God and man in His humanity, witnessing the love shared between Mary, His Mother, and Joseph, His foster father. Jesus' life on earth was not just about His public ministry. In His hidden life as the God-Man, He bridged the gap between Himself and humanity, sanctifying and elevating the dignity of human life. His family life with Joseph and Mary was a means to sanctify the dignity of family life.

With our God living in a human family, our family life is no longer just a biological connection but a sanctified reality, a temple where God's spirit dwells. We conclude this year with this special feast that celebrates not only the Holy Family of Nazareth but also the sanctity of every one of our families. Many of us will join our families to celebrate the new year and to bid farewell to the past year. We believe in God, who knows no coincidence and makes no mistakes. This unique bookend to the year should tell us something. So, the question is, how well do we do to live out our call to make family life the domestic church? If you are married, are you truly living up to the words of consent and letting that love be a light to this world, reflecting Christ's love for humanity?

Our New Year's resolutions are often vague and distant from our daily lives. I invite all of us to start with our families. If we desire to be more loving, why not begin with our family members? Just as Christ first lived as a Good Son before becoming a Good Shepherd, we too must first live out unconditional love within our families – in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. Once that is done, we can let that love radiate worldwide.

Happy New Year, and Many Blessings to you all!



**THE SACRIFICIAL GIVING OF
OUR PARISHIONERS**

December 15	Week 25	YTD
Collection	\$13,623	\$307,426
Budgeted	\$12,164	\$304,100

Music – Carol Sing \$2,020
 Assessment - \$1,945
 Food Pantry - \$1,771

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Due to accelerated bulletin deadlines for Christmas, the numbers are delayed and will be reported in subsequent bulletins.

Regifting Project: Spread the Joy!

Did you get socks...again? Is chartreuse just not your color? Do you really need yet another scented candle? This year we are once again participating in the **Christmas Regifting Project** to benefit Mercy House (www.rcan.org/mercy-house) in Newark.



There might be someone out there wishing that they'd received a chartreuse sweater for Christmas. You can lift their spirits!

This is a valuable lesson in altruism for adults and children alike.

Please **bring your gifts to the church** and **leave them in the vestibule** this weekend (**12/28 and 12/29**) and next - **January 4/5**. There is **no need to wrap them**. They'll be delivered to Mercy House and then given directly to those in need.

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

Giving Tree 2024 Thank You!



On another gifting note, we'd like to thank you for being part of the Advent preparation for the Christ Child through your generosity to our Giving Tree.

You brought holiday joy to underprivileged families in our area.

Because of your kindness, over 250 children will have a gift for Christmas.

2025 is a Jubilee Year

Hope Springs in the Eternal City !



Signs around the Eternal City declare "Roma si trasforma" – "Rome is transformed" as an explanation for the ubiquitous infrastructure projects

underway, including the restoration of iconic sculptures and monuments, ahead of Jubilee 2025, a Holy Year that begins Christmas Eve.

A jubilee year, also known as a "holy year," is a special year in the life of the Church currently celebrated every 25 years. The theme of the Holy Year is "Pilgrims of Hope." The papal bull, issued May 9, that introduced the coming Jubilee Year is titled "Spes Non Confundit," or "Hope does not disappoint," drawn from *Romans* 5:5.

"Everyone knows what it is to hope," Pope Francis wrote. "In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God's word helps us find reasons for that hope." – Adapted from Catholic Standard www.cathstan.org

Meet Our Staff

Rev. Brian X. Needles, Pastor
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Rev. Patrick Seo, Priest in Residence
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Mary Beth Zurat, Secretary
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New Year's Office Schedule

Please note that our parish offices will be closed on December 31st and January 1st. Have a blessed New Year!



January 1st Holy Day of Obligation



A reminder that New Year's Day is the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God and a holy day of obligation. We will have two Masses at 10:00am and 11:30am.

The actual title of this feast is "the Octave Day of Christmas and the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God."

Within this feast is multiple layers, but the title itself indicates it is a feast of our Lord, repeating the solemnity of Christmas, but also honors Mary as the Mother of God. The Mass readings return to the stable at Bethlehem, picking up right after the Gospel from Midnight Mass of Christmas... While Christmas is considered primarily a feast of our Lord on the liturgical calendar, "the Church both adores the Saviour and venerates his glorious Mother." So January 1st, the Octave Day of Christmas, IS repeating again this feast of Christmas, honoring both Jesus and Mary. – Taken from www.catholicculture.org



Masses For The Week



VIGIL, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2024

5:30 PM Walter Borowicz

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024

8:00 AM Bernadette Ezuduemoih –
Special Intention &
All Souls in Purgatory
10:00 AM People of the Parish
11:30 AM Leonard and Kathleen Schmieder, Jr.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2024

7:00 AM Sheila Magliaro
12:00 PM Walter A. Mattheiss – 4th Anniversary

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2024

7:00 AM The Brutofsky Family
12:00 PM Anita Pascual

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2025

10:00 AM Bob Popovics
11:30 AM The Brutofsky Family

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024

7:00 AM John Bonaparte
12:00 PM Kathleen Powis

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024

7:00 AM Albina Lopes De Almeida Duarte
12:00 PM Pedro Colón

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024

8:30 AM Joanna Berger
12:00 PM Helen M. Buttros

VIGIL, SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024

5:30 PM People of the Parish

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2024

8:00 AM Vincent Ryan
10:00 AM Teesha Hack
11:30 AM Eileen Schmidt

Pray for the Departed



Let us remember those who have passed away recently at OLS: Helen Buttros, Antoinette Facetano

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they 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, 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, Stephanie Windsor





Youth Free Throw Contest

Sponsored by the

Knights of Columbus Regina Pacis Council #4066

Friday, January 10, 2025

6:30 pm

Our Lady of Sorrows School Gym

- Girls and Boys ages 9-14 may participate in the competition (participants will compete within their age/gender group)
- Registration will take place upon arrival the day of the contest (parent/guardian must be present to fill out registration form)
- *No pre-registration required*
- Any questions please contact Lou Budzyn (kc3on3@gmail.com)

FREE OF CHARGE

Bereavement Ministry: **A Support Group for Those Grieving**

*Led by Deacon Walter Wiggins and other trained
facilitators*

If a loved one has passed away, either recently or years ago, please join us for our series of six sessions. Each session includes information, grief support and mutual sharing in a spiritual, confidential setting.

First meeting: Sunday, January 12th 2025.

in the Lower Church, from 1pm-2:30pm
(following the 11:30 Mass)
Refreshments will be served.

Pre-registration is required: if you are interested in joining us or hearing more about the group, please contact Terri or John via email below:

Terri – tmcbarrett50@gmail.com

John – jpprod25@comcast.net