

Our Lady of Sorrows Church
217 Prospect Street, South Orange, NJ
07079

973-763-5454

www.olschurch.com



MASSES: *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

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November 7, 2021
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our Lady of Sorrows Church

217 PROSPECT STREET

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. 07079-1803

(973) 763-5454 • FAX (973) 763-9506

November 7, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In last year's letter accompanying the 2020 financial and pastoral report of the parish, I wrote the following: "I think I speak for nearly every person in the world when I say that 2020 is a year none of us ever wants to see repeated...Definitely 2020: just go away and don't come back ever again! And 2021: come quickly and bring better and brighter days to us!"

2021 was better and brighter than 2020 in many ways as we have learned to better cope with the effects of COVID and other challenges. But still, we are struggling, whether as a world, a nation, a faith community, or as individuals, as we attempt to return to the days that we once characterized as "normal."

Even as we continue to mourn the loss of life and the many other losses we have experienced due to COVID, it's also true that the challenges we've faced over the past year and a half have also presented opportunities and have helped us to grow and reprioritize what we consider most important in life. You no doubt have noticed this in your own life. Likewise, the parish of Our Lady of Sorrows has had to find new ways to live out her mission of making God better known, loved and served. With this report, I wish to convey to you how OLS has continued to build up the Kingdom of God by means of the sacramental and ministerial life of the parish over the past year.

Through October 20th of this year, we celebrated 45 baptisms, 33 funerals, and 21 weddings. These numbers are all up from last year, when we celebrated 35 baptisms, 29 funerals, and 10 weddings. I expect that in 2022 we will celebrate many more baptisms, funerals, and weddings.

This Fall, we resumed our in-person CCD classes, with an enrollment of 175 children. I give enormous credit to Jen Noll, the Director of our CCD program, and Colleen McDonald, the Administrative Assistant for CCD, as well as our 15 wonderful catechists, for the amazing job they're doing in helping our children to grow in their understanding of the faith. This past Easter Season, 41 children of our parish received their First Holy Communion.

Thank you to Chris Kaiser, our Youth Ministry Director, and Colleen McDonald, who is also Administrative Assistant for that program. On May 23rd, 28 of our young people received the Sacrament of Confirmation (the same number as the previous year). This year, we have 28 Freshman and 32 Sophomores participating in our Youth Ministry program.

Our RCIA program rejoiced with the 2 adults who went through our RCIA program and completed their Sacraments of Initiation. Thank you to Sr. Mary Selina, S.C.C., and our RCIA team for preparing these adults for the reception of the Sacraments.

Our music ministry, under the direction of Preston Dibble, continues to add so much beauty to our liturgies. Having such a large and vibrant music ministry is so important for a parish (especially during a pandemic!). Preston has also started a new youth choir this year, for students in high school. Be sure to save the date of December 19 for our annual Carol Sing!

Our parish school now has its highest enrollment in decades. 274 students are now enrolled, which is the highest enrollment in many years and is a huge increase from the enrollment of 189 just two years ago and 208 last year. Congratulations to Principal Judy Foley and the entire faculty and staff of Our Lady of Sorrows School. Go Crusaders!

After a brief shutdown at the beginning of the pandemic, our Nursery is once again open and we currently have 36 children enrolled, compared to 42 children when the pandemic hit. The Nursery provides much needed income to the parish and we are very grateful to Nursery Director Karlene Campbell and her very talented staff for the incredible accomplishment of safely reopening and providing childcare to many local families. Our biggest challenge with the Nursery is finding aides/teachers to join

our team. The labor shortage has been a real challenge for the Nursery. If you are interested in a position with the Nursery, please inquire with me or Karlene Campbell.

Our Food Pantry never stopped operating during the pandemic when so many of our neighbors were in need of food assistance. We currently serve 350-450 families through this ministry and that is made possible by your continued financial and food donations to the Food Pantry. We are very grateful to the Food Pantry's leadership team and volunteers, who offer so much of their time and energy in carrying out this essential ministry of our parish.

The social life of our parish has slowly come back over the past year. Our annual parish picnic, after a recess last year due to the pandemic, resumed this September and attendance was the largest it has been in at least 20 years, as more than 250 people came to reconnect with fellow parishioners and neighbors. We look forward to offering many more social events over the next year.

Our 3rd annual Rosary Congress on October 6-7 was a wonderful demonstration of the deep faith of our parishioners and your love for our Blessed Mother. Many other spiritual events and programs occurred at OLS over the past 12 months and they show that the faith is alive and well in SOMA!

Now, for the financial picture of the parish. Our financial year ends on June 30th and you can see an abbreviated and comparative income statement for the past 2 years on the following page. The parish financial position, I am happy to report, is strong. Our balance sheet is actually in a stronger position than it was pre-pandemic. You, our parishioners, have been incredibly generous to the parish. Not surprisingly, our Sunday collections are down a bit from last year due to the fact that Sunday attendance this past year was less due to the pandemic. Sunday collections for the current year (2021-22) are now running above our budgeted amount as our attendance is slowly building up to pre-pandemic levels.

The GoFundMe page we started at the direction of the Archdiocese of Newark at the beginning of the pandemic (and which has now been discontinued) raised more non-assessed funds than any other parish in the Archdiocese, a total of \$69,830, which is significantly higher than the parish which raised the second highest amount. In addition, our parish pledged \$100,056 to the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal. This amount compares to the average of the 4 previous years of \$55,343. Because we beat our goal this year of \$75,607, OLS will receive a rebate from the Archdiocese in the amount of \$24,449 and the rate of assessment that we pay to the Archdiocese on all of our ordinary income will drop from 16% to 14% this year, which will save us approximately \$15,000 this year. Thank you so much for your incredible generosity! The love you show our parish continues to astound me!

As you can see, the parish saw a financial operating surplus this past year, thanks to your generosity that I highlighted above as well as the fact that OLS was the recipient of 2 large bequests from the estates of deceased parishioners. Without these bequests, we would have had an operating deficit. This highlights the importance of remembering OLS when planning your estate. We are always surprised and incredibly grateful when a parishioner remembers OLS in his or her will. Please prayerfully consider doing so. It's a magnificent way of extending your legacy at OLS.

On the expense side, we strove to cut expenses where possible and, as you can see, our total expenses were about \$138,000 less than the previous year. We take very seriously our obligation to be good stewards of your giving, while at the same time ensuring that our 5 parish buildings are well-maintained and managed.

Finally, allow me to once again express my sincere gratitude for your commitment to and support of our parish. I will have completed 3 years at OLS this coming February and I am continually inspired by the love you have for OLS and your active involvement in the life of the parish. As you have done since I arrived at OLS, I invite you to continue to share your thoughts with me about our parish. This is YOUR parish and your spiritual home and we, the clergy and staff of OLS, are here to serve you. Please become as active and invested in the parish's sacramental, ministerial, and social life as possible!

May the year 2022 be filled with many blessings for you and your families. May God's providence continually watch over you and may you forever enjoy the maternal protection of Our Blessed Mother.

Blessings from OLS,



Rev. Brian X. Needles
Pastor

	Year Ended June 30, 2020	Year Ended June 30, 2021
Revenues		
Sundays and Holy Day Collections	\$611,800	\$588,476
Christmas	53,508	53,721
Easter	39,130	36,574
Rental Income	510	350
Bequests and other Donations	17,024	218,343
Perquisites	13,455	11,285
Fund Raising	34,724	21,721
Society Income	16,958	8,338
Religious Education Program	74,299	33,767
Other Income (including the Nursery)	757,009	801,851
Candle Revenue	9,217	13,038
Archdiocesan Assessment Collection	32,446	16,495
Restricted Gifts	183,886	160,784
Interest	27,336	25,214
We Are Living Stones Capital Campaign	19,445	4,551
Total Revenues	1,890,747	1,994,508
Expenses		
Salaries and Benefits	1,199,095	1,120,332
Contracted and Professional Services	50,736	77,543
Repairs and Maintenance	16,066	50,317
Property, Liability and Auto Insurance	35,374	40,910
Utilities	81,236	72,786
Operating Supplies & Equipment	127,280	114,424
Religious Ed Curriculum	46,441	21,353
Society Expenses	9,136	10,839
Fundraising Expense	20,101	14,218
Provisions	16,940	12,762
Diocesan Assessment	160,116	162,983
Misc. Expenses	117,042	114,893
Outreach Charity	2,860	1,625
We Are Living Stones Capital Campaign	136,325	65,670
Total Expenses	2,018,748	1,880,475
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(\$128,001)	\$114,033

**THE SACRIFICIAL GIVING
OF OUR PARISHIONERS**

October 31st	Week 18	Y. To Date
Collection	\$15,336	\$212,262
Budgeted	\$11,179	\$201,222

Food Pantry \$1,037
Repairs and Maintenance \$1,660
Music Ministry \$562

Thank you for your continued support!

Bethlehem Handicrafts

The Christian community of Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus, is seeking your love and support by purchasing their handmade olive wood religious articles. These items will be displayed for sale in the front vestibule of the Church after all Masses on the weekend of November 20-21. Your help can and will make a difference in the lives of your Christian brothers and sisters in Bethlehem.

Get Formed

For several years, Our Lady of Sorrows has provided a free subscription to FORMED.org to all of our parishioners. FORMED has wonderful resources for the whole family (including young children and teens!) to learn more about our Catholic faith. FORMED provides Bible studies, documentaries, talks and movies for people of all ages so that everyone may grow in their faith. If you have not already signed up for your free membership, follow these simple steps:

1. Go to FORMED.org/signup
2. When prompted, sign us as a parishioner
2. Select your parish (using our zip code - 07079 - is easiest)
3. Register with your name and email address
4. Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED at no cost at all.



Meet Our Staff

Rev. Brian X. Needles, Pastor
fbriannedles@gmail.com
Rev. Richard Pfannenstiel, Parochial Vicar
Fanmann91@msn.com
Rev. Eugenio (Gino) de la Rama, Priest in Residence
Deacon Walter Wiggins, Permanent Deacon
deaconwalt@outlook.com
Ms. 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
Colleen McDonald, Administrative Assistant
sorrowchurch@gmail.com
Preston Dibble, Director of Music
olsmusician@gmail.com
Karlene Campbell, Nursery Director
karlene@thenurseryatols.org
Charles Noun, Business Manager
ols217so@msn.com
Anne Moore, Parish Secretary
ols.pastor@verizon.net

Electronic Parish Giving

Please consider making your offerings to our parish through our "Electronic Funds Transfer". This allows parishioners to make weekly/monthly donations to the parish that will be taken directly from your bank account or credit card account once a month. Electronic Parish Giving is easy and convenient with no additional cost to you as you support your parish. It can be accessed through our parish web site (www.olschurch.com). You may still receive envelopes in the mail and if you wish you could turn them into the collection on Sunday and simply write "Parish Giving" on them. Please consider enrolling today as a way to enhance your personal stewardship to our parish. **If you begin to use Electronic Giving and do not wish to receive envelopes (which will save the parish money) please contact the parish office.**

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND



March 8-18, 2022

**Walk where Jesus walked
Pray where Jesus prayed**

Pilgrimage includes Mount Carmel, the Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, Cana, the Mount of Beatitudes, Capernaum, Mount Tabor, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, Massada, and much more.

Cost: \$3,695 per person, double occupancy, all inclusive
(based on 30 travelers)

Email Fr. Brian – frbrianneedles@gmail.com

2022 Mass Book

The 2022 Mass book is now open. You may send in your Mass intention requests by mail. The donation for Masses is \$10 for each one. Please use the form below to submit requests by mail or place this form in the Sunday collection basket. When we receive your request, we will call you to let you know if the date and time you requested is unavailable. If you require a Mass card, we will mail it to you (please check the box below if you wish to have a Mass card).

Requested by _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Name of the deceased or Special Intention (please specify): _____

Is a Mass card required? Yes No

Date (weekday) _____ 7:00 am 12:00 Noon

Date (Saturday) _____ 8:30 am 12:00 Noon

Date (Saturday Vigil/Sunday) _____ 5:30 pm 8:00 am

10:00 am 11:30 am

Name of the deceased or Special Intention (please specify): _____

Is a Mass card required? Yes No

Date (weekday) _____ 7:00 am 12:00 Noon

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10:00 am 11:30 am

Amount enclosed: \$ _____ (make check payable to Our Lady of Sorrows)



VIGIL SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2021

5:30 PM Cledanor Joseph

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2021

8:00 AM People of the Parish
10:00 AM Deacon John Inguaggiato
11:30 AM Shane Kleindienst

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021

7:00 AM Armand and Fernand Family
12:00 PM Elizabeth Degnan

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2021

7:00AM Kirk Family
12:00 PM Elizabeth Degnan

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021

7:00 AM Jenny Magliaro
12:00 PM Lidia Patuto

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021

7:00AM Angelo Magliaro
12:00 PM David C. Durkin

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2021

7:00 AM Liz Degnan
12:00 PM Joseph Lanzl

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2021

8:30 AM George Evans
12:00 PM Monica Mrozak

VIGIL MASS NOVEMBER 13, 2021

5:30 PM Deacon John Inguaggiato

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2021

8:00 AM People of the Parish
10:00 AM Vincent Schrempp
11:30 AM Deceased Members of the
Lambusta and Abramo Families

In Memoriam

It is a loving gesture to donate the weekly Sanctuary Lamp in memory of a loved one or for a special intention.

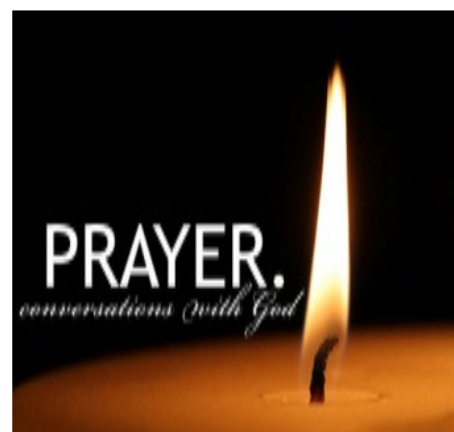
This Week's *Sanctuary Candle* in the Upper Church is being offered in loving memory of **George Evans**. Requested by Colleen and Phil McDonald.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Donations to support our Music Ministry are gratefully accepted. Donations are applied toward the purchase of printed choral music and instrumentalists for holiday liturgies, concerts & special occasions.

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please remember to pray for the following in your prayers: Julia Callaghan, Angie Sena, Daniel Callaghan, Elizabeth Stuart, Marie Somers, Bill Aber, Neville Moore, Jane O'Donoghue, George Richmond Files Jr., Megan More, Ludgarda Rosa, Stephanie Windsor, Amy Dombrowski, Mark F. Davonski, Beth Hebron, Jennifer Bober, Melissa O'Brien, Rita Arena, John Colaku, Kate Mullin, Rosemary Muller, Norma Gonzalez, Agnes Marshall, Bekim Colaku, Kyle Reardon and Mary Jane Tannen.



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