



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 24, 2023

Merry Christmas!

A Message from Fr. Andrew

Merry Christmas!

On behalf of priests and staff serving at our Lady of Sorrows parish community, I wish you all a blessed Christmas! It is one of the most special days of the year for us because the true Light has again entered our lives after the wait in the Dawn of Advent. May this time of great joy continue to shed light in all your hearts.

The Christmas carol Silent Night shares with us the image of what the night Christ was born could have been: *“Silent night, Holy night, all is calm, all is bright.”* It is truly a beautiful meditation, but I don’t know if I can agree with the lyrics.

When Joseph had Mary on his donkey, knowing the child's birth was imminent, he must have been desperate to find a room for Mary’s delivery. Although Mary had no labor due to her sinlessness, imagine the concern of a husband who loves his wife so much and who wants to protect her when there is no upper room available for the delivery (Jewish houses had an upper room for people and a lower room for cattle).

He must have wanted to prevent his beloved wife from having to give birth outside on the street. After knocking on door after door, when he finally found a small lower-level room where animals were usually stored, he must have thanked God for at least being able to provide a room for Mary’s delivery. It must have been a chaotic, hectic night. From trying to find the room all night, the self-blame Joseph could have had for not being able to provide his wife a warm and comfortable space for the delivery, and to the reality of having to see Mary give birth, possibly next to animals.

The night was probably very far from “silent and calm,” as the hectic reality of human life was all cramped into that small lower room on that night. However, in that night's chaos, God entered the story of humanity. Amidst the uncertainty and the messiness of our lives, He is willing to make Himself fully present in the humblest way: on a manger.

So many things happened in 2023. I wish I could confidently say many more positive things happened this year than not, but unfortunately, we have witnessed much darkness. Natural disasters, divisions, conflicts/wars between nations, the sufferings of innocent people ... the list could go on. However, the light has shone upon us despite the darkness and chaos. The Sun, and the true source of Light, has risen in the small town of Bethlehem and each of our hearts. The mystery of Christmas is that God has become one of us and made Himself Emmanuel – which means God with us!

God is so near us even when He may seem far from us. Sometimes, we try to find God somewhere far away when He is right near us. Just like the people of Israel were expecting the glorious almighty King when, in fact, their King came to them as a tiny infant. God is born again on a small manger of our hearts. No matter how messy our day-to-day is, He becomes the source of our joy today as our savior, who comes to us to make us join in His glory. Let us rejoice and smile, for the long-awaited King is now here to clothe us with His royalty.

So, Merry Christmas! May my voice and yours filled with joy reach heaven singing,

“Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!”

**THE SACRIFICIAL GIVING
OF OUR PARISHIONERS**

December 11th	Week 24	Y. to Date
Collection	\$17,160	\$290,245
Budgeted	\$12,027	\$288,636
Christmas	\$2,353	
Food Pantry	\$1,550	
St. Vincent De Paul	\$436	
Candles	\$440	
Repairs and Maintenance	\$3,205	
Christmas Flowers	\$925	
Pamphlets	\$296	
Retired for Religious	\$5,050	

Thank you for your generosity



Your Christmas Gift is much appreciated!

Thank you in advance for remembering OLS at Christmas! Our parish is heavily dependent on our Christmas collection. Christmas is so much about giving and receiving: God giving us His Son and we receiving that gift; loved ones exchanging gifts with each other; and giving the gift of one's resources to those in need and to charitable institutions. We are very grateful that you have chosen OLS to be the benefactor of your generosity, which will allow us to continue to share God's life-giving love with your fellow parishioners and our community.

Merry Christmas from the Saints!

St. Thérèse of Lisieux: "A God who became so small could only be mercy and love."

Venerable Fulton Sheen: "The world might have expected the Son of God to be born—if He was to be born at all—in an inn. A stable would be the last place in the world where one would have looked for Him. Divinity is always where one least expects to find it."

St. Teresa of Calcutta: "My prayer for you is that when Christ comes to you in Christmas, He may find in you a warm home, warm love like that of a heartful of love, like that of a simple shepherd who was the first one chosen to see Christ."

Pope St. John Paul II: "And in the end everything will turn out to be unimportant inessential, except for this: Father, Child, and Love."

Family Mass: 4:00 pm on Christmas Eve

Of course, all our parish families are invited to all of our Masses, no matter the time! For those interested, our next "Family Mass" (with child readers, singers, and greeters) will be the **4:00 pm Mass on December 24th.**

Essex County Young Adults

Are you between the ages of 20-35 and looking to connect with other people of faith? Join Essex County Young Adults for our next social event! We are a network of area parishes committed to building up community and discipleship for young adults. **For more information, text or email Stephanie: 201-470-2904 -**

olschurchministries@gmail.com.

OLS is in need of Marketing assistance

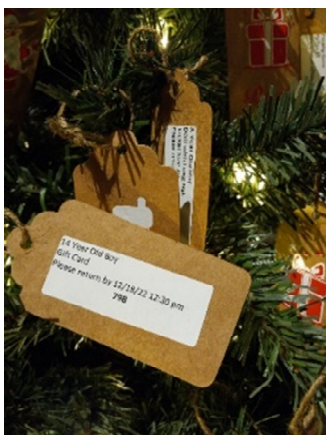
Do you have skills in marketing, promotion, or advertising? OLS is seeking assistance in spreading the word on specific projects/initiatives, and we need your expertise! Please contact Stephanie Sonnick at olschurchministries@gmail.com to find out more.

Please Remember OLS

Thank you for considering OLS in your will. A bequest to the Parish makes a lasting positive change. It is a powerful reflection of the values and principles you treasure. It enables you to create a legacy of love and care for those who most need assistance and it will continue your life's aims beyond your own lifetime.

Christmas Giving Tree

Thank you to everyone that took the tags and donated gifts. More than 300 children will have a Merry Christmas because of your incredible generosity!!



Congratulations to our 12th and Final 2023 Calendar Raffle Winner!

Congratulations to **Diane Pollak** on winning our 12th of 12 monthly drawing in our calendar raffle. **Diane** won \$1,500! **THANK YOU** to all that participated. We appreciate your stewardship!

Stewardship Reflections

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" – LUKE 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

St. Vincent DePaul Society

The OLS St. Vincent DePaul Society seeks to find and aid those in need in our Parish, and the Maplewood/South Orange communities on a confidential basis. If you know of someone potentially in need of financial and/or advisory assistance, have them contact the Our Lady of Sorrows Parish office. (973) 763-5454 or email: OLSStvincentdepaul@gmail.com



This Holiday Season DONATE to those in need!

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

- Pasta
- Cereal/Oatmeal
- Peanut Butter
- Tuna
- Rice
- Granola bars

Regular size items needed.
No glass, XL sizes, or home-portioned food.
Check Best By dates prior to donating.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY ITEMS

- Cookies
- Decaf Tea
- Hot Chocolate
- New Socks
for adults & children

OLS Pantry does not collect or distribute turkeys, hams, stuffing, cranberry sauce, gravy, yams.

To make a **MONETARY DONATION** towards Fresh Milk & Produce visit www.mendnj.org
Be sure to indicate "OLS Food Pantry" in the note section.

Drop Off Hours for Food Donations

Our Lady of Sorrows Church - 217 Prospect Street
4th St. entrance (lower Church)
Monday-Friday: 9:30am-4:00pm
Church front vestibule
Sat. & Sun.: 8:00am-12:00pm
Please do not leave food at the Rectory.
Thank you for respecting these drop off times.

Questions or to Volunteer:
Email: OLSPantry@gmail.com or call: 973.370.0458



**OLS
FOOD
PANTRY**

Our Lady of Sorrows is a MEND Food Pantry
MEETING ESSENTIAL NEEDS WITH DIGNITY

REGIFTING PROJECT FOR THOSE IN NEED

This year we will once again be participating in the **Regifting Project**. Few of us "need" all of the gifts we receive at Christmas, and sometimes we receive gifts we do not want or can't use. Instead of rushing back to the store right after Christmas to return the gifts, or letting them gather dust on a shelf, why not share our Christmas joy by giving these gifts to others? This is an opportunity to give to those in need at a time when many are struggling, and it is a great lesson for adults and children alike to look at all of the gifts they have received and offer one to someone who may have none at all.

Your donated gifts may be brought to church the weekends of **December 30/31 and January 6/7**. Please place the gifts in the church vestibule. There is no need to wrap the items. They will be delivered to Mercy House in Jersey City, where they will be directly distributed to those in need. If you have any questions, please contact Anna Nelson at: annanelson202@gmail.com or 973-477-9546.

Meet Our Staff

Rev. Brian X. Needles, Pastor

fbrianneedles@gmail.com

Rev. Andrew Lee, Parochial Vicar

frlee527@gmail.com

Rev. Robert Suszko, Weekend Assistant

Rev. Richard Pfannenstiel, Priest in Residence

Rev. Eugenio (Gino) de la Rama, Priest in Residence

Rev. Patrick Seo, 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

Stephanie Sonnick, 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

ols217so@msn.com

Anne Moore, Parish Administrative Assistant

ols.pastor@verizon.net

Sponsor Certificates - A reminder

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 member of our parish and is a practicing Catholic and has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.**



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.**

COMING
LENT 2024

**Don't just give
something up, get
something more!**



Join fellow parishioners in a small group setting for new friendships and meaningful conversations.

Tuesdays: 7-8:15 pm | Feb. 20th - March 26th

Virtual groups available (commuter and parent-friendly!)

Email olschurchministries@gmail.com to join us!



VIGIL, SATURDAY DECEMBER 23, 2023

5:30 PM People of the Parish

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

8:00 AM Joan Gallagher

10:00 AM Marta Hrucena Ojeda Redondo

11:30 AM Rosemarie Iantosca

4:00 PM People of the Parish

7:00 PM People of the Parish

10:00 PM People of the Parish

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2023

8:00 AM People of the Parish

10:00 AM People of the Parish

11:30 AM People of the Parish

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2023

7:00 AM Joe Coraggio and Family - Special Intention

12:00 PM Raj and Maureen Srinivasa - Special Intention

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2023

7:00 AM Bill Bradley

12:00 PM Lucas Soto, Pascual and Max White - Special Intention

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2023

7:00 AM Ellen Boddie

12:00 PM Lorraine Giles

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2023

7:00 AM Thanksgiving

12:00 PM James Mitchell

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2023

8:30 AM Annabeth Ebert

12:00 PM Marilyn Reeve

VIGIL SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2023

5:30 PM Sheila Magliaro

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

8:00 AM People of the Parish

10:00 AM Walter Mattheiss

11:30 AM The Brutofsky Family

Welcomed Home by God

Let us remember in our prayers those who have recently passed away at OLS: **Jane O'Donoghue**. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. Amen

In Memoriam

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

MUSIC MINISTRY

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

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please remember to pray for the following in your prayers: Julia Callaghan, Daniel Callaghan, Elizabeth Stuart, Marie Somers, Bill Aber, Neville Moore, Jane O'Donoghue, George Richmond Files Jr., Megan More, Ludgarda Rosa, Stephanie Windsor, Mark F. Davonski, Beth Hebron, Melissa O'Brien, Rita Arena, John Colaku, Kate Mullin, Norma Gonzalez, Agnes Marshall, Bekim Colaku, Mary Jane Tannen, Catherine Sullivan, Robert Charles, Jeanie Marucci, Patricia Bee and Elizabeth Mary, Donna T., Roy Bell, Norma Hermann, Mimi Hermann, Anne O'Brien, Deborah Hebron, Kathleen Mullan, Kate Powis and Rev. Msgr. Philip Morris.



2024 Mass Book

The 2024 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

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

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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

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

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<p>MUENCH DENTIST Call 973-763-2371 140 Maplewood Ave. Maplewood, NJ Karin Muench, DMD, MAGD MuenchDental.com</p>	<p>Michael Auer Cell: 201-339-2106 Office: 973-446-5148 MichaelAuer@aol.com</p> <p><i>Real Estate Specialists</i> Free Home Marketing Evaluation</p>	<p>RESERVOIR RESTAURANT Italian Cuisine • Pizzeria • Catering 1114 West South Orange Ave. • South Orange, NJ 973-762-9795 973-763-1488</p>	
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