



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 31, 2023

Feast of the Holy Family

A Message from Fr. Brian

During this time of year, we tend to sentimentalize the Holy Family. We see them in our crèches as painted figures of plaster and wood, not flesh and blood. But in many ways, they aren't much different from us. They were holy, yes. But they were also human.

This weekend, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. Their story is the story of life not always turning out the way one expects. We've all had experiences of dreams dashed, hopes not realized, expectations not met. And so the Holy Family's story is instructive for us.

The Holy Family's story is that of a teenage mother, conceiving a child before she lived with her husband. It's the story of an anxious father, planning on divorce. It's the story of a family forced to become refugees. It's the story of a boy who disappeared and caused days of anxiety for His parents. It's the story that continues into the adulthood of Jesus when His mother Mary had to watch in helplessness and almost unimaginable sorrow as Jesus suffered and died on the Cross.

When we speak of the Holy Family, we can speak of a family that struggled and suffered, like so many of ours. But that family also knew hope, profound hope. They trusted completely in God. And they call all of us to that kind of trust.

And they stand with us. They stand beside all who worry, who struggle, who search, who pray. The Holy Family stands beside parents who are anxious and who worry about their children. They walk with teenage mothers and single parents and the divorced. They console the parent of the prisoner, the outcast, the drug addict, the bullied, the scorned. They offer solace and compassion to any mother or father grieving over the loss of a child.

The Holy Family shares our burdens. But they also uplift us by their example. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph knew they were never alone. They endured and prevailed by the power and grace of God. They prayed. They trusted. They hoped. And in all that, they found peace and strength.

If you find yourselves overwhelmed, if you feel sorrow, if you are filled with anxiety, just look to the Holy Family, look to the crèche. There is our model for living: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Those three people were also often overwhelmed. But in times of anxiety and difficulty, in times of loss and sorrow, in times of pain and struggle, they showed us how to be a people of faith, a people of forgiveness, a people of love. In their simple way, they showed us how to be holy.

Happy New Year! Who knows what 2024 will bring our way. But we can live each day of this year knowing that we have a Father in Heaven who loves us with a love beyond all telling, that Jesus was born among us to save us, and that the Holy Spirit guides and directs our lives. Not only that, but we also have the assurance that Mary, the Mother of God, is also our mother and she intercedes constantly for us. All of this is great news and it should inspire us to live this year with hope, trust, and faith.

January 1st is the World Day of Peace. As we begin a new year, may God's peace be upon the whole world, especially in the Middle East, Ukraine, and in the war-torn countries of Asia and Africa. May Jesus, the Prince of Peace, inspire all of us to work for true and lasting peace, in the world, in our nation, in our communities, in our homes, in our families, and in our own lives.

Holy Family and Happy New Year Blessings!



THE SACRIFICIAL GIVING OF OUR PARISHIONERS

<u>December 17th</u>	<u>Week 25</u>	<u>Y. to Date</u>
Collection	\$10,587	\$300,832
Budgeted	\$12,027	\$300,665
Food Pantry \$1,771		
St. Vincent De Paul \$539		
Candles \$279		
Repairs and Maintenance \$529		
Christmas Flowers \$441		
Assessment \$2,342		

Thank you for your generosity

Please Remember OLS

Don't have a will? You are not alone. Now is a great time to start planning and please consider including a bequest to OLS in your estate plans. Bequest funds are vital to ensuring the Parish continues to thrive and minister to our parishioners.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

We have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Monday and Friday, from 12:30pm - 3:00pm, concluding with the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Please consider spending some quiet time in prayer before Our Lord in the exposed Eucharist. What the world, our nation, our Church, and our families need now more than ever is time spent with Jesus in quiet prayer. Honestly, can you think of any better way to use a few minutes of your Monday and Friday afternoons than with Our Lord in the peaceful quiet of our beautiful church?

Stewardship Reflections

"...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive." - COLOSSIANS 3:13

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, share the gift of forgiveness with someone – a family member, a friend or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

Please Note: Monday January 1, 2024, we will have 2 Masses, at 10:00 am and 11:30 am.

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.

Essex County Young Adults

Are you between the ages of 20 and 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 at 201-470-2904 - olschurchministries@gmail.com.**

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



Meet Our Staff

Rev. Brian X. Needles, Pastor

frbrianneedles@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

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 Administrative Assistant

ols.pastor@verizon.net

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.

Email scams involving clergy

Please be vigilant about any email that appears to be from one of our priests, asking you to take some kind of unusual action (purchasing gift cards, clicking a link or downloading an attachment you didn't request, wiring money to a specified account, or simply asking you to reply).

A number of parishes have been hit with these email scams. It involves making a fake Gmail (or Yahoo, etc.) account in a priest's name and then sending you a request of some sort from that priest. The emails may seem harmless; they have the priest's name and an email address that looks legitimate, but upon further inspection, the email address is actually different from the one the priest uses. In some instances, the priest's name may look correct but is missing just a single letter.

Please do not respond or reply to these emails and never click on a link in these emails. Simply delete them. You will recognize an authentic email from one of our priests if you get one. Also, note that the correct email addresses of our priests and parish staff are always published in the weekly bulletin.

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.**



Hospital Privacy

Privacy laws regarding patients in hospitals do not allow hospitals to contact parishes if their parishioners are in the hospital. If you or a loved one are going into the hospital and you desire that a priest visit you or your loved one, please call the rectory office and let us know.

Please sign up for Our Lady of Sorrows Digital newsletter today! Go to our website main page under news and events.
<http://www.olschurch.com>



OLS Scout Troop 99G strives every day to live by the Scout Oath: a Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. This week, our spotlight is on being friendly.

Every week, our troop meetings here at OLS are open to any girls ages 11 - 17. Please visit us on January 11th at 7:30 pm in St Josephs's Hall for our New Year, New Adventure Celebration! Laughter, food, and games are on the agenda for this special event! All girls ages 11 - 17 are welcome to join in the fun. Bring an old friend, and leave with new friendships!

Parents: If you think your child could benefit from time spent away from phones and social media, time spent in the outdoors, and time spent recognizing the values of the Scout Oath, please consider signing up for our Scouts BSA Troop. Contact our adult leadership team at OLSScoutsBSA@gmail.com or 973.763.6349 for more information on Scouting for girls and boys of all ages.

Follow our intrepid OLS 99G adventures on Instagram @Troop99Girls or Facebook: <https://www.Facebook.com/Troop99Girls>.

Troop 99G wishes all our parishioners and their families and friends a very Joyful Christmas! See you in the New Year!

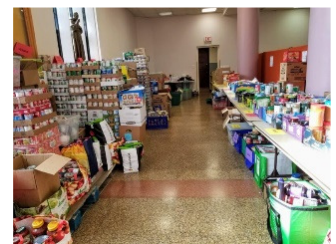
End-of-year tax planning

Now is the time of the year to consider final tax planning for 2023. You may be aware that Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from your qualified retirement accounts (401-k, 403(b), IRAs) have been waived in 2023 pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. If you would like to consider a donation to Our Lady of Sorrows, you may use a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). This permits you to distribute your RMD (up to \$100,000) to the charity of your choice without having to pay income tax on the distribution. The ability to exclude the RMD from your income is in place of taking a distribution for your charitable contribution. Please be advised that this is not tax advice. Questions should be discussed with your accountant or tax advisor.

Update from the OLS Food Pantry

The OLS Food Pantry is very busy and demand for our services remain high. We are serving nearly 200-250 families with each pantry distribution. For the calendar year 2023, this amounts to 8,341 bags of groceries provided to 6,773 families made up of 25,066 individuals. In addition to the staple items, each family receives fresh produce and milk with each distribution. This would not be possible without the generosity of Our Lady of Sorrows church, its parishioners and the surrounding community. Thank you.

Please continue to help us keep our shelves stocked with basic grocery items including hot/cold cereal (low sugar), pasta and sauce, peanut butter and jelly, beans (can/dry), canned tuna/chicken and rice. Food donations can be dropped off in the lower church Monday-Friday, 9:30am-4:00 pm inside the 4th Street entrance or in the church vestibule Saturday/Sunday morning. Monetary donations are also accepted by check (payable to 'OLS Food Pantry' and mailed to the church at 217 Prospect Street) or online at <https://olschurch.com/parish-giving/> Questions? Email olspantry@gmail.com or call 973-370-0458.





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

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2024

10:00 AM Philip McDonald-Special Intention

11:30 AM The Brutofsky Family

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024

7:00 AM Hanna Massie - Special Intention

12:00 PM Joel Ziegler

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024

7:00 AM Rafael Parlade - 60th Anniversary

12:00 PM Marcelle Dans

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024

7:00 AM People of the Parish

9:30 AM School Mass

12:00 PM Rafaela F. Sanchez - 45th
Anniversary

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2024

7:00 AM People of the Parish

12:00 PM Pat Monaghan

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2024

8:30 AM Guillermo R. Sanchez - 2nd
Anniversary

12:00 PM Connie Marucci

VIGIL SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2024

5:30 PM People of the Parish

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

8:00 AM Elizabeth and Allen Nelson

10:00 AM Mary Downing

11:30 AM Danielle Horan

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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☐ 10:00 am ☐ 11:30 am

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

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