

Our Lady of Sorrows Church
217 Prospect Street, South Orange, NJ 07079
973-763-5454
www.olschurch.com



**“
REPENT,
for the
kingdom of
heaven is
at hand!
”**

MATTHEW 3:2

MASSSES: *Saturday Vigil: 5:30 pm, Sunday 8:00, 10:00 & 11:30 am*
Monday-Friday 7:00 am, 12:00 pm Saturday 8:30 am, 12:00 pm (Lower Church)

Penance: Confessions Saturday 1:00 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 and arrange communion calls

Marriages: Arrange at least one year in advance with a parish priest

RECTORY & PARISH: 973-763-5454 • FAX: 973-763-9506 • www.OLSCHURCH.COM
CHARLES NOUN: OLS217SO@MSN.COM • FR. BRIAN X. NEEDLES: FRBRIANNEEDLES@GMAIL.COM

December 8, 2019
2nd Sunday of Advent

Stewardship is sharing our time, talent & treasure

620-1

A Message from Fr. Brian

Here's a little Catholic trivia for you. In our Catholic liturgical calendar, we celebrate the birthdays of only three people. Can you name them? OK, time's up. The first one is the most obvious. It's the one we're preparing for right now. It's the birthday of Our Lord, which of course we celebrate on Christmas.

Then there's the birthday that takes place 9 months after the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, which we celebrate on December 8th (transferred to December 9th this year). That means that 9 months after Mary is conceived we celebrate her birthday, which is September 8th.

And the third birthday is St. John the Baptist's, which we celebrate on June 24th. So John the Baptist ranks right up there, in fact, almost right up there with Jesus and His Blessed Mother. That's how important he is. Advent doesn't have a patron saint, but if it did, it would certainly be John the Baptist.

On the face of it, John the Baptist seems to be totally inappropriate for the way we celebrate Christmas. Christmas is about the birth of Jesus. Mary, Joseph, angels, a manger, shepherds, wise men; a child is born unto us. Glory to God in the highest! That is what Christmas is all about. Jesus is the reason for the season.

What does John the Baptist have to do with Christmas? Is John the Baptist an important character in the Christmas story? Absolutely! In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear him blaring out, "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!*" Repentance is necessary if we want to greet the Christ Child with a pure heart.

To repent means saying to ourselves: I need God. I need His mercy, I need His grace, I need His help. A lot of people ask why we're losing the true meaning of Christmas and the answer is probably that, in our pride, we've forgotten that we need a Savior. Well, guess what? We desperately need a Savior. In complete humility we need to admit that we're not perfect and that we need salvation.

Repentance means showing contrition for anything in our life that displeases God. It means saying, "Lord, to be honest, things aren't what they should be in my life. Things just aren't right between You and me. I really haven't done my best to keep up my friendship with You."

The repentance that John the Baptist commands of us should encourage us to say, "Lord, I'm a sinner. And here are the sins I need taken away. I'm sorry for them, help me not to do them anymore. Help me to grow in my friendship with you." That's repentance.

That's why we have that Catholic custom of a good confession before Christmas. We like to talk about God's unconditional love. And it's true that God's love for us is without condition. But unconditional love doesn't mean that God is content to leave us as we are. It would be a pretty meager love if God didn't expect something of us. And by humbling ourselves, confessing our sins, and amending our lives, we show that just as God loves us, we love Him.

Our annual Advent Penance Service is this Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 7:00 pm, at St. Joseph Church in Maplewood. We will have a communal penance service, followed by individual confessions. What a great way to ready ourselves to worthily meet Our Savior at Christmas.

The voice crying out in the wilderness says, "*Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.*" That voice belongs to John the Baptist. That wilderness we call Advent. And that voice speaks of humble repentance and redemption. It speaks of second chances. It readies us to meet a Savior born in Bethlehem.

Advent Blessings,



THE SACRIFICIAL GIVING OF OUR PARISHIONERS

Because of Thanksgiving this will be reported in the next bulletin.

Reflections on Catechism

1286 In the Old Testament the prophets announced that the Spirit of the Lord would rest on the hoped for Messiah for his saving mission. The descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus at his baptism by John was the sign that this was he who was to come, the Messiah, the Son of God. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit; his whole life and his whole mission are carried out in total communion with the Holy Spirit whom the Father gives him "without measure."

13th of the Month Club

A Marion Prayer group will meet on Sat. 12/14 at 10:30 am in the Kateri Room. Help us to honor Mary in a special way during this month of Marion Feast Days and Christmas. All are welcome.

Holiday Time at the Food Pantry

The OLS Food Pantry is distributing Christmas food packages on Saturday, December 14. As we've done for the last several holidays, we are distributing ShopRite gift cards in lieu of turkeys or hams. More flexible to meet our patrons' wide-ranging needs, and easier on everyone's backs. If you'd like to donate cards, \$10 denominations work best. Special foods for Christmas include coffee (1 pound containers), oil (canola, veg, olive) in 32 oz containers (no glass), and cookies. Food donations can be left on the little brown desk outside our door. Monetary donations can be dropped off at the Parish Office. We've updated our Volunteer Sign Up Genius (<http://bit.ly/OLSPANTRY>) with dates through April 2020. There are many options for volunteering, and we hope that you'll consider joining us in our mission. Any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Kate at katecahill50@gmail.com. Thanks so much!



Advent Reflection Talk

Please note our Advent Reflection talk has been rescheduled to December 17th at 7:00 pm in the Upper Church.

Our Lady of Sorrows School
Annual Wreath Sale



The home-school association will be selling Wreaths, Grave Covers and White Pine Roping on the following Sundays, in front of the church:

December 8th – December 15th

- \$12 Plain Wreath
- \$22 Small Decorated Wreath
- \$50 Large decorated Wreath
- \$20 Grave Pillow
- \$33 Grave Blanket
- \$35 White Pine Roping

~ Cash, check or credit card accepted ~
All proceeds support Our Lady of Sorrows School!
Thank you in advance for your continued support!

Questions? WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

Contact KERI DONOHUE

917-618-3944

keridonohue@yahoo.com



Our Lady of Sorrows School
Holiday Extravaganza
December 8, 2019
12pm - 4pm
OLS Gymnasium
Have your photo taken with Santa while enjoying shopping, food and raffles!
Free Entry





THINK ABOUT IT

This week we read in Isaiah 11:1-10 about the vision of the "Peaceable Kingdom". Recently Pope Francis traveled to Hiroshima and Nagasaki to demand that the world powers renounce their nuclear arsenals, declaring the use and possession of atomic bombs an "immoral crime: and a dangerous waste". We need to keep a vision of the Catholic Church as a "Peace" church, urging the world to create a climate of solidarity, not one of distrust. This commitment to peace and disarmament was addressed by Pope John XXII in 1963 in Pacem in Terris, "In our time, which prides itself on its atomic weapons, it is contrary to reason to hold that war is any longer an appropriate means to restoring violated rights". Let us all work for peace as our own vision and in this, our own time.

Susan McElroy for the Peace and Justice Committee

Saint Gianna Beretta Molla Pro-Life Ministry

Please come to LIFENET'S 25th Anniversary Fundraising Gala, "A Child is Born", on **Thursday, December 12 at 6:00 P.M.** at the Westmount Country Club in Woodland Park, NJ. Tickets are \$150 per person with an open bar and Venetian Hour. All proceeds will go towards LIFENET's vital pro-life/pro-chastity educational work! For more information or to purchase tickets, call Nicole at 973-497-4500 or email info@lifeneteducation.org.



Please join in solidarity with fellow pro-lifers as we march for life in Washington, D.C. on **Friday, January 24, 2020** for the 47th annual March for Life. We will be meeting at 6:00 A.M. for Mass at Immaculate Conception Chapel presided over by Fr. Colin, Director of Campus Ministry, at Seton Hall University. We will depart at 6:30 A.M. and return to campus at approximately 10:30 P.M. Trip includes the March for Life Rally and a peaceful march to the United States Supreme Court. Cost is \$25.00. Checks should be made payable to Campus Ministry. Trip includes round trip transportation and bagels and coffee. 20 seats are available, on a first come, first served basis. To secure a spot on the bus or if you have questions, email elena.santoliquido@gmail.com

Save the Date: Movie screening of *Unplanned* on Friday, January 17, 2020, at 7 P.M. -- more information to follow

Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/olsprolife or on Instagram @olsprolife.





Our Lady of Sorrows School News

Learn Serve Lead Succeed

Our Lady of Sorrows School Preschool celebrated Thanksgiving last Tuesday with their annual Thanksgiving Feast! The PreK 3 and PreK 4 classes met for lunch and feasted on some traditional Thanksgiving foods together. Prior to the feast they learned about the the history of Thanksgiving and the many traditions associated with the holiday.

We encourage you to schedule a tour and even have your child visit for the day! See all that Our Lady of Sorrows has to offer! Visit www.ourladyofsorrowsschool.org or call 973.762.5169.



"Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."
Matthew 25:40

Christmas Giving Tree

You can bring holiday joy to underprivileged families in our area: Make generosity part of your Advent preparation for the Christ Child. **300 Children are in need** – please be as generous as possible!



Please select a request tag(s) from the trees in the church vestibule. Deliver wrapped gifts with tags securely taped to church the weekend of **December 22 by 12:30 pm**

Though your generosity is greatly appreciated, timeliness is also key. Gifts cannot be delivered to the children if they are not on time.

Questions: Jonathan Arena
Jonathan.e.arena@gmail.com or 848-565-5920

Stewardship is sharing our time, talent & treasure



Our Lady of Sorrows - St. Joseph

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 7:00 PM
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, MAPLEWOOD

Please join us for our Advent Penance Service. We will have a communal penance service, followed by individual confessions. Prepare your soul for the Birth of Our Savior by first making a good confession. *The service will be at St. Joseph Church in Maplewood.*





SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019

5:30 PM Charles Silano

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019

8:00 AM Rosarians Living & Deceased

10:00 AM People of the Parish

11:30 AM Margaret Higgins

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2019

7:00 AM Joseph E. Houle

12:00 PM Katherine Amoresano &
Dombrowski Family

7:00 PM Youth of the Parish

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019

7:00 AM Sr. Mary Patrick Herron SCC

12:00 PM John McGrath

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019

7:00 AM Deacon John Baltus

12:00 PM Michael Morowski

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019

7:00AM Sr. Mary Stephen Christian SCC

9:30 AM School Mass – Manuela Zarate

12:00 PM TadeuszKozlowski & Deceased
Members of the Budzyn Family

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13 2019

7:00AM Sr. Helene Foley SCC

12:00 PM Helen Iantosca

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2019

8:30 AM Robert & Carmen Perez Special
Intention

12:00 PM Deceased Members of the
McDonnell, DiPrenda & Gautieri
Families

VIGIL MASS DECEMBER 14, 2019

5:30 PM Karen Ann Caputo

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019

8:00 AM People of the Parish

10:00 AM Annabeth Rose Ebert

11:30 AM Lessie Lacy 37th Anniversary

IN MEMORIAM

*This week's **Sanctuary Candle** in the Upper Church is being offered in loving memory of **Sr. Mary Patrick Herron, Sr. Mary Stephen Christian & Sr. Helene Foley**. Requested by Maria Wilms.*

OFFER OF GIFTS

When the Mass intention is for your loved one or friend, and you would like to bring up gifts of bread and wine, please advise one of the ushers.

IN MEMORIAM

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

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, Michael Davis, Bill Aber, Neville Moore, Jane O'Donoghue, George Richmond Files Jr., Megan More, Marie Manno, Ludgarda Rosa, Eileen Muench, Stephanie Windsor, Deacon John Inguaggiato, Amy Dombrowski, Mark F. Davonski, Sr. Theresia Maria Holtschlag, George Richmond Files Jr., Beth Hebron and Henry Hamel.



Our Lady of Sorrows Carol Sing & Living Nativity 2019

Walk in the Light

Featuring the Saint Cecilia Singers,
Canticum Novum Singers and Parish Choir
under the direction of Preston Dibble
with harp, flute, the Gramercy Brass Quintet,
and Kristin Dabaghian, organist.

Sunday, December 15th • 4:00PM
Church of Our Lady of Sorrows
South Orange, New Jersey