

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Sunday, January 1, 2017

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God



Weekend Masses

Saturday: 5:00pm

Sunday: 7:30am / 9:00am / 11:00am

Daily Masses

Monday-Saturday: 8:30am (except Wed.)

Wednesday: 7:00pm

First Friday Mass: 2:00pm

@Homestead Nursing Home

Civic Holidays: 9:00am

Holy Days: 8:30am / 7:00pm

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday 9:00am-12:00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 4:15pm-4:45pm

Sacraments of Baptism, Marriage, & Anointing of the Sick

Please contact the office to arrange.

Youth Group

Heather Falotico

olmcyg@gmail.com

Golden Angels Senior Ministry

Margie Palazzo

973-948-6104

Knights of Columbus, Council 9920

Terrence O'Connor, Grand Knight

Served by:

Father Abuchi F. Nwosu, *Pastor*

fatherabuchi@aol.com

Father Peter Oddo, *Weekend Assistant*

Deacon Anthony Barile

Deacon Edward Muller

Allison Murphy, *Music Director*

olmcmusicministry@gmail.com

Dan Salvatore, *Coordinator of Religious Ed.*

Kathy Modrow, *Secretary*

Ann Johnson, *Secretary*

Parish Office

203 Newton-Swartzwood Road

Newton, NJ 07860

Hours: 9:00am-1:00pm

Phone: 973-383-3566

Fax: 973-383-3831

mtcarmelswartzwood@gmail.com

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Religious Education Office

Hours: 9:00am-1:00pm

Phone: 973-579-2355

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God treasures the least expected!

A number of countries around the world have an official designation of certain places or artifacts as "national treasures." Some countries also designate and honor individuals as "national treasures." What do these people and places have in common, these "treasures" of the different countries? They are all recognition of exceptional lives and famous accomplishments. In this case, "treasure" translates to "hero" or "superstar" or "champion." But can you imagine a country that would designate its working poor, or its homeless, or its refugees as national treasures? Of course not! They are just embarrassing segments of society and a social nuisance to be treasured. Let's be more specific, who would so honor and treasure the poor and the homeless refugee? Only God would.

The gospel today shows how God chose the poor and a refugee to cast as His heroes for the birth of His Son - Jesus Christ. Who but God would make of shepherds, the working poor of society, a "national treasure?" Shepherds were some of the working poor in the socio-economic system of first-century Palestine. "Their work was dangerous, tiring, dirty, and it rendered them unclean in the eyes of proper Pharisaic laws regarding ritual purity. So shepherds represent all those who feel left out by proper religious rules, and those who are powerless and vulnerable in the economic system." It was to these disadvantaged people that God announced the good news of Christ's birth in Bethlehem. And who but God would so treasure a poor young couple like Mary and Joseph that He would choose them to bear and protect the Messiah; these refugees from their home town due to a government census, forced to bear their child in such crude circumstances that only the poorest of the poor can relate.

Be mindful of those who cannot afford all the things you have and all the things you have accomplished. Respect them and do not look down on them. On this New Year, while I'm thousands of miles away from you, my wishes for you is for God to bless you and keep you, may He be gracious to you and grant you a happy and a healthy New Year - 2017.

— Fr. Abuchi

Mass Intentions for the Week**Saturday, December 31**

1 Jn 2:18-21 / Jn 1:1-18

8:30am Souls in Purgatory

6:00pm Dave & Terry Bush

Sunday, January 1 (Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God)

Nm 6:22-27 / Gal 4:4-7 / Lk 2:16-21

7:30am Louis & Philomena Nazzaro & John Crivelli

9:00am For OLMC Parishioners & their Families

11:00am Sam Sorce

Monday, January 2 (Memorial of Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church)

1 Jn 2:22-28 / Jn 1:19-28

8:30am Shirley LaForgia

Tuesday, January 3

1 Jn 2:29 - 3:6 / Jn 1:29-34

8:30am For an End to Abortion

Wednesday, January 4 (Memorial of St Elizabeth Ann Seton)

1 Jn 3:7-10 / Jn 1:35-42

7:00pm Clara Kircher

Duncan Fitton

Thursday, January 5 (Memorial of St. John Neumann)

1 Jn 3:11-21 / Jn 1:43-51

8:30am Cornelio Odorizzi

Friday, January 6

1 Jn 5:5-13 / Mk 1:7-11

8:30am Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, January 7

1 Jn 5:14-21 / Jn 2:1-11

8:30am William Jones

5:00pm Deceased Members of Weisser & Muller Families

Sunday, January 8 (The Epiphany of the Lord)

Is 60:1-6 / Eph 3:2-3A / Mt 2:1-12

7:30am Retired Religious

9:00am Peace in the World

11:00am In Honor of 50th Anniversary of Marge & Steve DeAngelis

Please Remember and Pray For the Following

Ann Bott, Walter & Concetta Brock Jr., Lindsey Brooke, Joseph Colon, Terry Comex, Carmine Curulli, Ingrid Diaz, Doug Ernst, Sr. Thomasina Gebhard, Richard Hennings, Les Humienny, Ava Kljajic, Bruce Konar, Joshua Koontz, Kden LeoGrande, Charles Longo, Pete Mahler, Mary Jo Manno, Susanne Martone, James B. Nienstedt, Mary Ellen Nienstedt, Sister Peggy Noone, John Samsoc, Stephen Osborn, Margie Palazzo, Jerome Pasternak, Connie Pyne, Peter F. Reynolds, Colleen Romano, Sal Romano, Carol Rock, Joan Royer, Rose Marie Sciascia, Carole Salvatore, Diane Scarince, Greg Schmiditty, Rose Marie Sciascia, Gloria Shope, Carole Sisco, Debbie Smith, Richie Sorce, Andrew Sorce, Michael Sugar, Dale Swoboda, Roberta Treptau, David & Vince Ventresca, Pat Zaleski, Virginia Zaleski

A GOOD STEWARD

Sunday, December 25

\$2,888.00

Sunday, Christmas

\$6,602.00

Thank you for your generosity!

SANCTUARY LAMP

This week the Sanctuary Lamp burns for
Helen Spechalski

**WOMEN AND MEN OF THE ARMED FORCES**

We ask God the Father, through the intercession of St. Michael the Archangel to protect all the men and women in our Armed Forces. May they be brought back safely to those whom they love: Larisa Furs, US Navy; Lt. Jason Gieniewski, U.S. Army; Pvt. Daniel Michael Mobilio, Army; Captain Richi M.

Pazdzierski, US Army; Captain Jane Petrick, Army; Lt. Daniel T. Pevarnik Jr., National Guard; Captain Cheryl Ryan, US Army; Seaman Recruit Tylor Joseph Salonia; Michael Valeich, Staff Sergeant; Robert Williams, Airman

2017 RIGHT TO LIFE MARCH*March for Life*

Washington D.C.

This year marks 43 years of the Roe V Wade Supreme Court Decision to permit the abortion of babies.....There is no doubt that Life begins at Conception. Some people for convenience, believe that it begins at other times. We as Catholics believe, as in the Immaculate Conception, that Life begins with God and we as people bring that Life into fruition. This year we will again bring the voice of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Christians to Washington D.C. to share with the world, that it is never right to kill a baby for convenience.....

Please come with us or financially support this trip....We all can do something to save a baby.....We have a 3 day trip planned. The sign up sheet is on the kitchen door. Flyers that detail the facts about the trip are on the bar by the kitchen door.....

Any questions call Deacon Tony 973 362 6453...Steve De Angelis 973 383 7036..... Heather Falotico 704 433 9201

MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

On New Year's Day, the octave day of Christmas, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Holy Mother of God, the divine and virginal motherhood of the Blessed Virgin.

It is the highest title of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Mother of God. This title was given to Mary at the Council of Ephesus in 431 A.D. The council taught that the humanity and divinity of Jesus could not be separated and that they exist in one person, with the momentous implication that we can rightly give Mary the title of Mother of God. The Evangelist, Luke, describes her as the silent Virgin who listens constantly to the Eternal Word, who lives in the Word of God.

This feast is the celebration of Mary's motherhood of Jesus and is the oldest feast of Mary celebrated by the Catholic Church.

PRAYER FOR THE FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Heavenly Father, You blessed the Virgin Mary with the fullness of grace. She is my model of faith, hope, and love. I give this new year to her intercession and ask for her holy prayers. Place my needs into the protection of her motherly love. With her help, I want my faith to grow. Give me an increase in the virtue of hope when troubles tempt me to despair. Guide me in understanding Your infinite love. And join my heart, dear Lord, to the Holy Mother's Immaculate Heart, so that I may improve in loving everyone unconditionally, in imitation of my Savior, Jesus. Amen.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The next children's Mass will be **January 8th at 11 am**. Grade 4 will be participating. All CCD and Confirmation students are expected to attend.

For Confirmation Candidates, the ACRE test will be administered on Sunday, **January 8th from 7 till 8 pm**. There will be no confirmation classes on this date.

On Sunday, **January 15th**, grades 5 and 8 will take the ACRE test during CCD.

Attention Youth Group and all Church members: Please see the youth group bulletin board for all upcoming youth group events. The board is located in the entry way to the hall. For more information on the youth group and upcoming events, please email olmcyg@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT

Sacred Heart Spirituality Center in Newton, NJ, is hosting our Women's Weekend Retreat January 6 – 8, 2017. The theme for this retreat is "Listen to my Voice." Come and spend some get-away time with Our Lord, listening to Him speak of His great love for you!

Register now by downloading a registration form at our website www.sacredheartspiritualitycenter.org For further information, please call 973-383-2620 or e-mail shretreatcenter@gmail.com

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON (1774 - 2821)

Mother Seton is one of the keystones of the American Catholic Church. She founded the first American religious community for women, the Sisters of Charity. She opened the First American parish school and established the first American Catholic orphanage. All this she did in the span of 46 years while raising her five children.

Elizabeth Seton had no extraordinary gifts. She was not a mystic or stigmatic. She did not prophesy or speak in tongues. She had two great devotions: abandonment to the will of God and an ardent love for the Blessed Sacrament.

FR. ANGELUS CROCE'S RETIREMENT

After serving the community for many years and being the Chaplain for the Salesian Sisters for over twenty years Fr. Angelus Croce is retiring to Nazareth Village in Chester.

A simple reception will take place at Sacred Heart Center from 1:30-3:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 8th. Please RSVP by email at croceretirement@gmail.com or leave a message at [201-396-1101](tel:201-396-1101). Please come and wish Fr. Angelus a happy retirement.

LEGACY GIFTS

Lord reminds us of the abundant blessings that come from a generous heart. "Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."

When you give your time, talent and financial resources to our parish, it strengthens our faith community in so many wonderful ways!

Did you know that there are also opportunities to make a legacy gift to Our Lady of Mount Carmel that will touch the lives of parishioners for generations to come? Please prayerfully consider remembering our parish in your will and estate plans. For more information, call our parish at 973-383-3566 or contact our diocesan development office at 973-777-8818, ext 215 for further assistance and to discuss options that might work for you. Thank you so much for all you do for Our Lady of Mount Carmel — now and in the future!