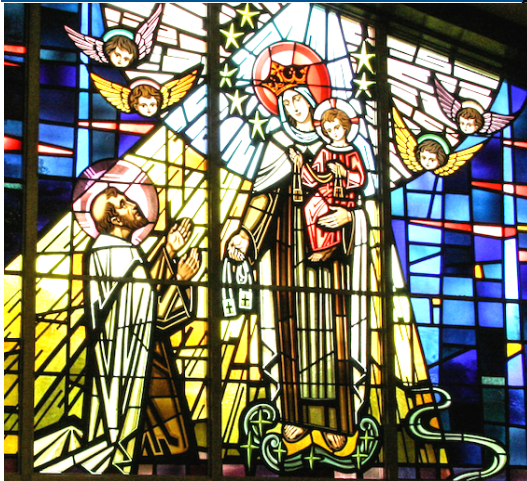


Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Sunday, February 11, 2018
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Served by:

Father Abuchi F. Nwosu, *Pastor*
fatherabuchi@aol.com
Father Peter Oddo, *Weekend Assistant*
Deacon Anthony Barile
Deacon Edward Muller
Dan Salvatore, *Coordinator of Religious Education*
Matthew Arnold, *Music Director*
msarnold@udel.edu
Caroline Mazzola, *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
www.olmcswartzwood.org

Religious Education Office

Hours: 9:00am-1:00pm
Phone: 973-579-2355
olmcccd@gmail.com

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
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.

OLMC Joy Club (Just Older Youth)

Patricia Cholasta
973-534-7733

Youth Group

Heather Falotico
olmcyg@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus, Council 9920

Terrence O'Connor, Grand Knight

Distancing myself from the Lepers of my time!

In the first century, leprosy was the social equivalent to the Ebola virus disease. Nobody will ever like to get close with an Ebola patient. While at the hospital, even the doctors and nurses who care for them will completely mask their body for protection. It is a deadly disease! Like Ebola, the predicament of lepers in the time of Jesus was truly pathetic. Because it is a contagious disease, the unfortunates were excluded from all social, religious and commercial activities. For hygienic reasons, lepers had to live apart, 'outside the camp,' in the words of today's first reading. They lived apart from their family, their friends and the community to which they belonged. In addition to their predicament, there was a clear religious stigma associated with leprosy. Lepers were considered unclean, both physically and morally. They were shunned, feared, and outcast from the synagogue, the towns, and even their own homes. No one knew how leprosy was contracted in the first century, and no one knew how to cure it either, so the proper folks simply responded to leprosy, and lepers, by isolation. It was a religious and social strategy born of panic and fear."

In today's Gospel, a leper boycotted this isolation and social stigma and did something unthinkable. He broke the community's law of mingling with the healthy. With courage, he approached Jesus, knelt before Him and requested for healing. Jesus also crossed social and religious boundaries, stretched his hand, touched the leper and cured him. By healing the leper, Jesus restores him to the community who threw him out. And by healing him, Jesus teaches us the importance of compassion to the sick and the value of accepting and welcoming people in our midst.

Both Jesus and the leper teaches us the steps we can take to break out of our isolation, even when the odds seem to be stacked against us. "We can all be tempted from time to time to retreat into our shell, whether it is because of our health or some disability or some past experience that has drained us of life." It is at such times that we need something of the initiative and daring energy of the leper to seek God or look for help. It was desperation that drove the leper to seek out Jesus. Sometimes for us too, it can be our desperation that brings us to where we need to be. Do you feel like a leper to someone or among others? Probably there are people or a group you consider as lepers in your life. For some reason, you distance yourself from them. Is there any possibility you can reconcile or restore such relationships?

—Fr. Abuchi

Mass Intentions for the Week**Saturday, February 10 - Memorial of Saint Scholastica**

1 KGS 12:26-32; 13:33-34 / MK 8:1-10

8:30am Ann Marie Jones

5:00pm Intentions of Darrin Condit and Family

Sunday, February 11

LV 13:1-2, 44-46 / 1 COR 10:31-11:1 / MK 1:40-45

7:30am Msgr. Ralph Nwosu

9:00am Frances Curulli

11:00am Rich Sinski

Monday, February 12

JAS 1:1-11 / MK 8:11-13

8:30am Vinny Ventriglia

Tuesday, February 13

1 JAS 1:12-18 / MK 8:14-21

8:30am Petranilla Sarcona

Wednesday, February 14 - Ash Wednesday

JL 2:12-18 / 2 COR 5:20-6:2 / MT 6:1-6, 16-18

8:30am Intentions of Sam Sullivan

7:00pm Intentions of Barbara Froetscher

Thursday, February 15

DT 30:15-21 / LK 9:22-25

8:30am Bob Froetscher

Friday, February 16

IS 58:1-9A / MT 9:14-15

8:30am Don K.U.

Saturday, February 17

IS 58:9B-14 / LK 5:27-32

8:30am Mary Parkyn

5:00pm Georgene Wyker

Sunday, February 18

GN 9:8-15 / 1 PT 3:18-22 / MK 1:12-15

7:30am

9:00am Helen Bergman

11:00am Edward Joseph Myzyinski

Please Remember and Pray For the Following

Ann Bott, Ralph Bozza, Samantha Brady, Walter & Concetta Brock Jr., Bradley Burchfield, Dominic Bongiorno, Joseph Colon, Terry Comer, Fr. Angelus Croce, Carmine Curulli, Ingrid Diaz, Kara Deserto, Doug Ernst Sr., Linda Flynn, Thomasina Gebhard, Richard Hennings, Ava Kljajic, Bruce Konar, Joshua Koontz, Alex Krucinski, Kimberly Lane, Kden LeoGrande, Elizabeth Lacovara, Pete Mahler, Maria Mallozzi, Mary Jo Manno, Deacon Charles Mathias, Susanne Martone, Brett Mershon, Mary Ellen Nienstedt, Sister Peggy Noone, Stephen Osborn, Margie Palazzo, Jason Parker, Sr., Jerome Pasternak, Lorraine Paxton, Ellie Prakopcyk, Owen Primavera, Bill Rasmussen, Connie Pyne, Peter F. Reynolds, Carol Rock, Bishop Frank Rodimer, Colleen Romano, Linda Ross, Joan Royer, Rose Marie Sciascia, Carole Salvatore, John Samsoc, James Scales, Diane Scarince, Greg Schmidty, Gloria Shope, Carole Sisco, Debbie Smith, Nancy Snook, Stephanie, Richie Sorce, Andrew Sorce, Michael Sugar, Dale Swoboda, Roberta Treptau, David & Vince Ventresca, Brooke Zaleski, Virginia Zaleski

A GOOD STEWARD**Sunday, February 4****\$3,591.00**

This week the second collection is for the Diocesan Assessment.

Thank you for your generosity!

SANCTUARY LAMP

This Week The Sanctuary Lamp Burns for the Intentions of Sam Sullivan

**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 Tyler Joseph Salonia; Michael Valeich, Staff Sergeant; Pvt. Zachary Wharton, Robert Williams, Airman

CONGRATULATIONS

This past Sunday, Scott Begraft, Holly Rogers and Bob Schofield were formally accepted as Catechumens. On February 18th, they will meet with all the Catechumens in the diocese at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson for the Rite of Election which will be presided by the bishop. On Easter vigil, they will receive the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation).

Chris Zweig is already baptized and he was accepted as a Candidate. He will eventually receive the rest of the Sacraments of Initiation (Eucharist and Confirmation).

We pray for them and wish them good luck as they continue their journey to become full members of the Catholic Church.

CHARITABLE STATEMENT

If you would like to receive a copy of you 2017 contributions, please contact the office

ASH WEDNESDAY-FEBRUARY 14

Ash Wednesday Mass will be at 8:30 am and 7:00 pm. Ashes will be distributed at both Masses. It's a day of fast and abstinence.

**JOY CLUB**

There will be a JOY Club meeting on Sunday, February 18 after the 11:00am Mass. Lunch will be served. \$5.00 dues include lunch. Join us for food and fun. Just sign in for food count. Please call Patricia (973)534-7733 if you have any questions.

FAREWELL TO RICHARD SINISKI

One of our active parishioners very well known as Rich passed this January. Rich volunteered in any way he could to support the parish. For instance, he locked and unlocked the Church whenever he could. Rich will be remembered for assisting in the sale of bagels, donuts and serving coffee in the kitchen.

Some parishioners will never be in a hurry to forget his unique Crumb cake. Not only was he very passionate about it but he also baked the cake with love. May God grant him eternal happiness and peace.

For convenience, the family has scheduled a memorial Mass on Saturday, February 24th at OLMC

If you are interested to donate money for the memorial service or for the repast, which will be in our church hall, please make the check payable to the parish, and put "Rich memorial" in the memo.

LIVING WITH GRIEF

An exploration of Grief: the normal, natural, unavoidable reaction to loss

Newton Medical Center will be hosting: *The Living With Grief Lecture Series*. This is an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the effects grief has on our lives, our loved ones and our relationships. It is offered to anyone who has experienced a loss, who is helping another cope with loss or who would like to learn more about the grieving process.

Hosted at: Romano Conference and Education Center
175 High Street, Newton Room 100
Tuesday evenings: April 10, 17, 24 and May 1-6:30-8pm
Light refreshments will be served.

For registration/information, contact:
Reverend Randy Parks, Spiritual Care
Newton Medical Center-(973)579-8625 or
randolph.parks@athlantichealth.org
Registration is required as seating is limited

VALENTINE'S DAY vs. ASH WEDNESDAY

This year, Ash Wednesday—which begins the penitential season of Lent with a day of fasting, abstinence and prayer—falls on February 14, Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day celebrates a third-century Christian martyr, but it has also become a celebration of romantic love, replete with chocolates, roses and an overload of candy hearts. As Catholics, we need to remember that Lent is more important than candy hearts. The obligation of fast and abstinence must naturally be the priority in the Catholic community.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

Catholics 18-59 are required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Catholics 14 and older are also required to abstain from meat on those days and on Lenten Fridays. According to the US Bishops' Conference, a person fasting "is permitted to eat one full meal as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal."

ST. VALENTINE

On February 14th, around the year 278 AD, Valentine, a holy priest in Rome in the days of Emperor Claudius II, was executed.

The emperor had a hard time getting soldiers to join his military leagues. Claudius believed that Roman men were unwilling to join the army because of their strong attachment to their wives and families. To get rid of the problem, Claudius banned all marriages and engagements in Rome. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages in secret. Upon learning of this, Claudius ordered Valentine be put to death. Prefect of Rome condemned him to be beaten to death and beheaded. The sentence was carried out on February 14. For his great service, Valentine was named a saint after his death.

SICK AND HOMEBOUND

Anyone who is homebound or sick and needs a priest, please call the office to make arrangements — (973)383-3566

ONLINE GIVING OPTION**FOR WEEKLY AND ONE TIME GIFTS**

Enrolling in Online Giving is a great way to ensure your gifts to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel are received even when you are away or traveling.
Please visit: <https://olmcswartwood.churchgiving.com>