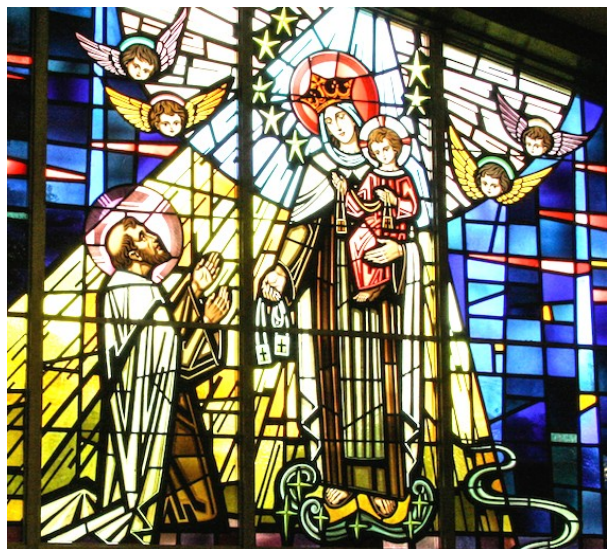


# Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Sunday, December 9, 2018  
Second Sunday of Advent



## PARISH STAFF

Father Abuchi F. Nwosu ..... Pastor  
fatherabuchi@aol.com  
Father Peter Oddo ..... Weekend Assistant  
Deacon Anthony Barile  
Deacon Al Kucinski  
Deacon Edward Muller  
Dan Salvatore ..... Coordinator of Religious Education  
Caroline Mazzola ..... Secretary  
Ann Johnson ..... Secretary

## PARISH OFFICE

203 Newton-Swartswood Road • Newton, NJ 07860  
Hours ..... 9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Phone ..... 973-383-3566  
Fax ..... 973-383-3831  
Email ..... mtcarmelswartswood@gmail.com  
Web ..... www.olmcswartswood.org

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

Hours ..... 9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Phone ..... 973-579-2355

## OLMC JOY CLUB (Just Older Youth)

Patricia Cholasta ..... 973-534-7733

## YOUTH GROUP

Heather Falotico ..... olmcyg@gmail.com

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, Council 9920

William R. Nagy ..... Grand Knight  
olmckofc9920@gmail.com

## WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday ..... 5:00 pm  
Sunday ..... 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am

## DAILY MASSES

Monday-Saturday ..... 8:30 am (except Wednesday)  
Wednesday ..... 7:00 pm  
First Friday Mass ..... 2:00 pm  
@Homestead Nursing Home  
Holy Days ..... 8:30 am & 7:00 pm

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Monday ..... 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday ..... 4:15 - 4:45 pm

## SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM, MARRIAGE & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact the office to arrange.

## Masses for the Week

### Saturday, December 8 – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin

GN 3:9-15, 20/LK 1:26-38

8:30 am Marion Gross *by Eleanor Long*  
5:00 pm Cornelio Odorizzi *by Ida Odorizzi*

### Sunday, December 9 - Second Sunday of Advent

BAR 5:1-9 / PHIL 1:4-6, 8-11 / LK 3:1-6

7:30 am Edward Burns *by Parish Staff*  
9:00 am Deacon Peter Falatico *by Falatico Family*  
11:00 am Danielle Nazzaro *by Marie Nazzaro*

### Monday, December 10

IS 35:1-10 / LK 5:17-26

8:30 am Marion Gross *by Parish Staff*

### Tuesday, December 11

IS 40:1-11 / MT 18:12-14

8:30 am Sal Romano *by Parish Staff*

### Wednesday, December 12 – Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

ZEC 2:14-17 / LK 1:26-38

7:00 pm Robert Clark *by Tom & Darlene Scarince*

### Thursday, December 13 – Memorial of St. Lucy, Virgin

IS 41:13-20 / MT 11:11-15

8:30 am Souls in Purgatory *by Parish Staff*

### Friday, December 14 - Memorial of St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church

IS 48:17-19 / MT 11:16-19

8:30 am Intentions of Matthew Inglima *by Carol Inglima*

### Saturday, December 15

GN 3:9-15, 20 / LK 1:26-38

8:30 am George H. W. Bush *by Parish Staff*  
5:00 pm Richard Caccavale *by Ida Odorizzi*

### Sunday, December 16

ZEP 3:14-18A / PHIL 4:4-7 / LK 3:10-18

7:30 am  
9:00 am Prayers Answered in Honor of Elizabeth  
Lacovara *by JoAnn Friel-Lacovara*  
11:00 am Sr. Thomasina Gebhard *by Worman Family*

### PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING

Jennie Apostola, Ann Bott, Walter & Concetta Brock Jr., Bradley Burchfield, Dominic Bongiorno, Joseph Colon, Fr. Angelus Croce, Stephanie Cuomo, Ingrid Diaz, Kara Deserto, Doug Ernst Sr., Linda Flynn, Donna Gatto, Richard Hennings, Ava Kljajic, Bruce Konar, Joshua Koontz, Alex Krucinski, John Kucinski, Kden LeoGrande, Pete Mahler, Maria Mallozzi, Mary Jo Manno, Deacon Charles Mathias, Susanne Martone, Brett Mershon, Mary Ellen Nienstedt, Stephen Osborn, Margie Palazzo, Jason Parker, Sr., Jerome Pasternak, Lorraine Paxton, Clarence Remke, Peter F. Reynolds, Carol Rock, Bishop Frank Rodimer, Colleen Romano, Olga Romeo, Linda Ross, Rose Marie Sciascia, Carole Salvatore, John Samscock, Greg Schmiditty, Gloria Shope, Debbie Smith, Nancy Snook, Stephanie, Richie Sorce, Andrew Sorce, Richard Sorge, Gene Streeter, Michael Sugar, Dale Swoboda, Roberta Treptau, David & Vince Ventresca, Brooke Zaleski

### A GOOD STEWARD

Sunday, December 2	\$3,408.57
Online Giving	\$250.00
Diocesan Assessment	\$623.00

*Thank you for your generosity!*

\*Second collection this weekend is for the Retirement Fund for Religious

*This Week the Sanctuary Lamp Burns for the Recovery of the Sick Parishioners*



### 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: Major Brandon Bennett, NJ Army National Guard (Federal); Larisa Furs, US Navy; Lt. Jason Gieniewski, US 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





### Second Week of Advent

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent symbolizes Faith with the "Bethlehem Candle" reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. The Advent candles readily demonstrates the strong contrast between darkness and light. In the Bible, Christ is referred to as the "Light of the World" contrasted with the darkness of sin. As His Advent, or "coming" draws nearer, another candle is lit with each candle dispelling the darkness a little more. Thus, the Advent Wreath helps us to spiritually contemplate the great drama of salvation that surrounds the birth of God Incarnate who comes to redeem the human race.

To be continued.....



### Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe-December 12



In the winter of 1531, an Aztec Indian living in Mexico was walking to morning Mass when he heard music and a women's voice coming from Tepeyac Hill calling his name. Juan Diego climbed the hill and encountered a young woman. The woman identified herself as the Virgin Mary and told Juan Diego to ask the

bishop of Mexico City to build a church on the hill to assist in the conversion of the nation and be a source of consolation to the people. Juan Diego obeyed the request but the bishop was skeptical regarding the message. He told Juan Diego to ask Mary to give him a sign that it was her that wished for the Church to be built. Miraculously, roses appeared in the field during the winter and was placed in Juan Diego's cloak neatly by Mary. When he opened his cloak to show the bishop the roses, he let them fall to the floor. It was revealed that a miraculous image of our Lady had imprinted itself on his cloak where the roses lay. The bishop immediately fell to his knees and came to believe in Juan Diego's message. A Church was built on the spot of the apparition as Mary had requested and 8 million people converted to Catholicism in a short period of time upon hearing of or viewing the miraculous image of Our Lady.

### Christmas Wafers

Many cultures have special traditions surrounding Christmas Eve. The Eastern Europeans especially have the tradition of the Christmas wafer. Many Lithuanians call the wafer the "Christ-Child cake". The wafer is a symbol of the living bread which became flesh. The father breaks his wafer first, then each family member breaks off a portion from his own "plotkele" & wishes that person Merry Christmas or a prayer such as "May you live till the next Christmas. God grant you happiness & health all the coming year until the next Christmas."

\*Donated by one of our parishioners, we have Christmas wafers available this year. It's a polish tradition however, you don't have to be Polish to take a wafer. It's available in the hall and in the Sacristy. You are not required to but you may give a free will offering if you need a Christmas wafer.

### RCIA PROGRAM

Are any of your relatives, friends or anyone you know who wants to become a full Catholic? Look no further. We are accepting candidates for the RCIA Program. Anybody who is inquiring to know more about the Catholic Faith and teachings, and those who were baptized but did not receive Eucharist or Confirmation, please call the office or e-mail Fr. Abuchi

### Homestead Eucharistic Ministries

On the First Friday of every month, a Mass is held at the Homestead nursing home. Volunteers are needed to bring the residents from their room downstairs to where Mass is being celebrated. The time involved would be approximately 1:30-3:00.

Every Sunday we try to bring communion to the Catholic residents of the Homestead who were once active members and even daily Mass attendees at their home parish. Now if we do not bring Communion, the residents may go a long time before receiving Jesus. If you could serve either on the First Friday or on one Sunday of the month, it would help tremendously. Please call the Parish Office to volunteer or for more details (973) 383-3566 or Dan Salvatore (973) 579-1908.

### OUT OF TOWN?

#### Are you traveling out during the weekend for a vacation, visit or for business?

In order to attend Mass while you are away for the weekend, go to [www.Masstimes.org](http://www.Masstimes.org) or get the phone app from Apple Store, "Mass Times for Travel." This will show you the closest Church nearby.

**GIVING TREE**

Our annual Giving Tree is set up near the altar. We still have some ornaments left. If possible, please take an ornament to help the needy. On the back of the ornament are details of what is needed. Please return the wrapped gifts on the weekend of December 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> with the tags attached. Thank you for your generosity!

**\*Volunteers are needed once again to help put together the Christmas food baskets and to sort out the wrapped gifts on Sunday, December 16 from 4:30 – 6:30 pm. Please call Caroline (973)383-3566 if you can volunteer your time. Pizza will be served. Thank you!**

**JOY Club Announcement****(Fellowship for Parishioners over 55)**

Please join the JOY Club's Christmas Party on Saturday, December 29<sup>th</sup> at 12 pm in Biesaida Hall. More information to follow.

**CHOIR ANNOUNCEMENT**

The choir is preparing for Christmas with rehearsals on Thursdays evenings at 7:30 pm. They will be singing a prelude of special music on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 pm accompanied by a violin before the midnight Mass. They will have a treat at the 6 pm Mass. The sounds of a violin played by our organist, piano and percussions will fill the Church with beautiful Christmas music. All are invited to participate in familiar seasonal music!

**St. Paul's Abbey**

St. Paul's Abbey on Route 206 one mile south of Newton, has thousands of Christmas trees ready to choose 'n' cut 7 days a week from November 23<sup>rd</sup> to December 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9 AM to 4 PM. They also have the Abbey Gift Shop with many items that make ideal Christmas gifts, including books, statues, jewelry and more.

**Monday Adoration 9 AM - Noon**

For the winter months, Adoration has been moved to the Chapel.

**Christmas Flower Donations**

If you would like to donate a Christmas flower to a loved one, the donation envelopes can be found at the doors of the Church.

**Confirmation Fundraiser Pick-up Information**

Anyone who ordered candy, Christmas wreaths and grave blankets can pick them up this weekend after each Mass. Pick-up will be at the garage.

**Knights of Columbus Council 9920  
Announcement**

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal organization for Catholic gentlemen in union with the Holy See. All Catholic men, 18 and over, are invited to join. Visit "[WWW.KofC.org/joinus](http://WWW.KofC.org/joinus)" to learn more about the many benefits of membership in the Knights of Columbus. For more information contact Grand Knight Bill Nagy at (973) 919-8554 or Terry O'Connor at (201)874-9836.

**Religious Education Announcement**

**\*Sunday, December 16**

**Confirmation Gathering 7pm – 8:30 pm**

**\*December 14 – 15**

**8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Lock-in Retreat**



**“Let every winding roads be made straight and rough ways made smooth”**

Visitors to our parish often express how they enjoyed the ride to our country parish. They enjoyed the green vegetation and the beautiful trees on the road to our Church. But they of course, comment the road leading to our parish is winding. We can all attest that the Swartswood road is not a straight road but a winding road. Since the road is not straight, it is expected that we drive cautiously but also mindful of the speed limit. There are times human relationships can be also a winding road. That is, not straight and not smooth. Consequently, it presents some difficulties leading to misunderstandings and break ups. There are also times our relationship with God is a winding road making it difficult for us to encounter God in a deeper way and have a better relationship with Him.

In St. Luke's gospel today, John the Baptist called his audience to, "Prepare the way of the road and make straight his paths." Advent weeks invites us to listen again to those words and reflect on them as we prepare for Christmas. John the Baptist and prophet Baruch tells us that, "valleys are to be filled in, mountains and hills laid low, winding ways straightened and rough roads made smooth." The paths in our lives could be full of roadblocks - valleys, hills and crooked curves that block the path of our relationship with God. So, we must straighten this bumpy road by making some drastic changes in our lives for a better relationship with God. To prepare the way of the Lord, the Valleys to be filled are sins that create a hollow or lacuna in the life of the Christian. These valleys need to be filled with God's grace. To prepare the way of the Lord, the Mountains and hills of our pride, arrogance, anger and unforgiveness are to be made low. Anger and unforgiveness have an adverse effect on human relationship which ultimately offends God. Therefore, mountains of anger, hatred pride and unforgiveness need to be replaced with love, kindness and humility

This time of advent offers you and I a great opportunity of grace to reconcile with God hopefully through the sacrament of reconciliation. It also offers us the opportunity to listen once again to the voice of John the Baptist, "Prepare the way of the Lord make straight his paths, every winding roads shall be made straight and rough ways made smooth" The question is: Is there anything you can change in your life or do differently to prepare for the Lord's coming?

**-Fr. Abuchi**



**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

“He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of His birth, for He will be great in the sight of the Lord”

**-Luke 1:14-15**