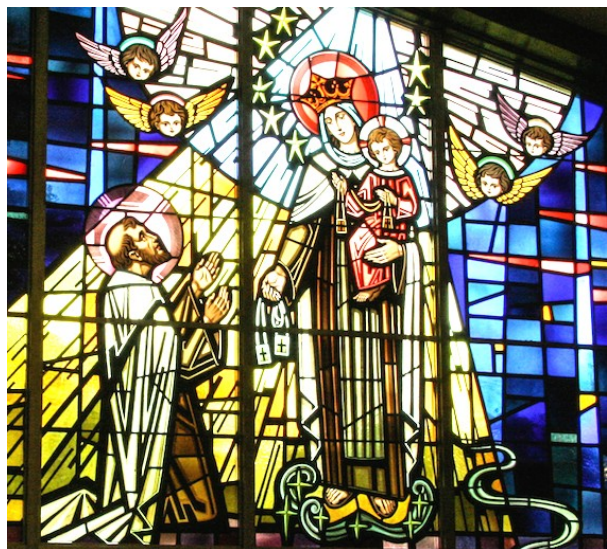


Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Sunday, December 23, 2018
Fourth 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 22

1 SM 1:24-28 / LK 1:46-56

8:30 am Colin O'Connor *by Parish Staff*

5:00 pm Joseph T. Greshko *by Halina & Richard Pazdziarski*

Sunday, December 23

MI 5:1-4A / HEB 10:5-10 / LK 1:39-45

7:30 am Andrew Alexander Napolitano *by Parish Staff*

9:00 am Robert Mucha *by Nancy & Oscar Fernandez*

11:00 am Betty Lacovara *by Dan & Dina Salvatore*

Monday, December 24

2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A,16 / LK 1:67-79

8:30 am Theresa Orso *by Parish Staff*

Christmas Eve

6:00 pm For OLMC Parishioners & Their Families

12 Midnight Mass For PLMC Parishioners & Their Families
by Parish Staff

Tuesday, December 25 – The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas

IS 52:7-10 / HEB 1:1-6 / JN 1:1-18

7:30 am For OLMC Parishioners and Their Families

9:00 am For OLMC Parishioners and Their Families

11:00 am For OLMC Parishioners and Their Families
by Parish Staff

Wednesday, December 26 – Feast of St. Stephen, First Martyr

ACTS 6:8-10; 7:54-59 / MT 10:17-22

7:00 pm Intentions of Dylan McDonald *by Carol Inglima*

Thursday, December 27-Feast of St. John, Apostle

1 JN 1:1-4 / JN 20:1A and 2-8

8:30 am Danielle Nazzaro - Ida & Howard Grimes
by Marie Nazzaro

Friday, December 28-Feast of Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 JN 1:5—2:2 / MT 2:13-18

8:30 am Souls in Purgatory *by Larry & Mary Anne Condit*

Saturday, December 29

1 JN 2:3-11 / LK 2:22-35

8:30 am Marilyn O'Connor *by Parish Staff*

5:00 pm Bob Froetscher *by Barbara Froetscher*

Sunday, December 30 - Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

SIR 3:2-6, 12-14 / COL 3:12-21 / LK 2:41-52

7:30 am For Peace in the Families *by Parish Staff*

9:00 am Robert Mucha *by Joan Polanski*

11:00 am Joe Zukowski, Sr. *by Joe Zukowski, Jr.*

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING

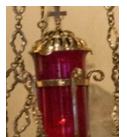
Jennie Apostola, Ann Bott, Walter & Concetta Brock Jr., Bradley Burchfield, Dominic Bongiorno, Joseph Colon, Fr. Angelus Croce, Stephanie Cuomo, Ingrid Diaz, Kara Deserto, Doug Ernst Sr., Linda Flynn, Donna Gatto, Richard Hennings, Ava Kljajic, Bruce Konar, Joshua Koontz, Alex Krucinski, John Kucinski, 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 16	\$3,210.00
Online Giving	\$250.00

Thank you for your generosity!

This Week the Sanctuary Lamp Burns for the Intentions of Robert & Christine Delaney



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. Pazdziarski, 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





Fourth Week of Advent

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, the final purple candle is lit to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait expectantly for the soon-coming birth of the King of Kings. The fourth Sunday of Advent symbolizes peace with the "Angel's Candle" reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men." This week is also a time to recollect and to reflect on our Advent journey. To not let anything get in the way of our spiritual preparations for Christmas. The light on the candles on the Advent wreath are a symbol of the light of Christ.



Feast of St. John the Apostle – December 27



St. John who is styled in the Gospel, "The beloved disciple," was a Galilean, son of Zebedee and Salome and brother to St. James the Greater, both of whom were fishermen. They were called by Jesus to be disciples as they were mending their nets by the sea of Galilee. He became the beloved disciple of Jesus. He wrote the fourth Gospel, three Epistles and the Apocalypse. His passages on the preexistence of the Word, who by His Incarnation became the light of the world and life of our souls, are among the finest of the New Testament. John, with his brother and Simon Peter, was one of the witnesses at the Transfiguration of Christ and was permitted to witness His agony in the garden. At the Last Supper, John leans on Jesus' chest and at the foot of the cross, Jesus entrusts His Mother to his care. St. John was the only one of the Apostles who did not forsake the Savior in the hour of His Passion and Death. John's pure life kept him very close to Jesus and Mary. In years to come John was exiled to the island of Patmos under Emperor Domitian but lived to an old age.

Jesus is the reason for the Christmas Season

Jesus gives meaning to Christmas. Jesus who was God in flesh, perfect, pure, holy, and who died on the cross and rose from the dead, is the one who gives the true meaning to Christmas. Thus, Christmas is supposed to be the time of year when we celebrate the birth of Christ. Unfortunately, it has become a commercial holiday rather than a religious one. It's mostly known as a time for businesses to make money, for people to give gifts, for children to be excited, for parties, etc. The "reason for the season" is supposed to be Jesus, not gifts, not parties and not watching "the big game." Of course, having celebrations, attending parties and watching the big game are not wrong and they are beautiful. It's just that the meaning of Christmas is supposed to be the recognition and appreciation of the birth of the one who loves us and died in our place. Christmas is the celebration of the historic event of when God entered into our world so that he might display the perfection and holiness of God and that through His work of living perfectly and also dying on the cross for our sins, that all who trust in Him would be saved from the righteous judgement of God.

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.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - **Christmas Eve Mass** schedule is 6:00 PM and Midnight Mass.

Tuesday – **Christmas Day Mass** schedule is 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

The Mass schedule for **New Year's Eve**, December 31st is 5:00 PM. **January 1st** is the **Feast of Mary, the Mother of God**. This is a **Holy Day of Obligation** with Mass at 9:00 AM.

Family Promise

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel helps the homeless of Sussex County by providing meals, fellowship and overnight coverage three times a year at the Frankford Plains Church. our first time to help in 2019 will be Thursday, January 31st and Friday, February 1st. Please consider cooking and serving a meal on one of these evenings or spending the night (in your own room/classroom). these families who may have lost their homes due to financial or family problems appreciate all the help they are given to get back on their feet. It won't take much sacrifice on your part but will give others the knowledge that God is helping them. For more information call Mary Anne Condit (973)219-3352. Thank you!

JOY Club Announcement (Fellowship for Parishioners over 55)

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

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

Religious Education Announcement

***Sunday, January 6**

***Next Children's Mass-8th grade will be actively participating**

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

Bathroom Renovation

I am so happy with the many positive comments about the parish bathroom renovations. We still need to do a few things to make them look better than it is now. For some reasons, the plumbing work was done freely by a young man not even from our parish. His kind work saved the parish a lot of money. The general cost of the bathroom supplies and other workmanship is **\$13,263.15**.

There will not be Monday Adoration on Christmas Eve but there will be an 8:30 AM Mass

A Flower for Jesus

We are inviting you to do something concrete for Jesus Christ. As a sign of your dedication to Jesus, we would like each family of the parish (or each member of the family) to bring a single flower to place in front of the manger. We will have a basket in front of the manger so before Christmas Mass, please place your flower in the basket as a pleasing sign to Jesus.



Important Message from the Paterson Diocese

The Paterson Diocese has received an allegation of sexual abuse committed by the late Father James Reedy, who was assigned to our parish from September 1983 to June 1984. If any person may have been abused by any priest, they should immediately contact the Local County Prosecutor's Office and also Monsignor James T. Mahoney, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, Diocese of Paterson. He may also be reached at (973)777-8818 ext. 205.

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" 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.





“It was indeed a surprise and a supportive visit from a relative”

The celebration of our Lord’s nativity is just a few days away. Many homes, offices and some public places has been decorated with a Christmas tree, with lights and ornaments. Others are baking cookies and preparing a Christmas menu for the gathering of family and friends. And of course, exchanging of Christmas cards and gifts are passing from loved ones and friends. For vast majority of people, it is one of the busiest times of the year because there are banquets and parties they can’t afford to miss, family gatherings to plan and cooking to be done. It seems that all of these and many other activities has become our Christmas schedule and invariably overshadow the real meaning of Christmas.

Christmas is many things to all of us: family, faith, tradition, celebrations, memories. For the two women, namely, Mary and Elizabeth we heard in today’s Gospel, Christmas was not even on the calendar. It was simply a joyous visit and meeting of two cousins filled with good news. Luke has told the story of the angel Gabriel’s visit to Mary of Nazareth announcing that she would be the mother of the savior of the world. After Mary was convinced by the angel that the conception will miraculously happen through the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary accepted this great news without further questions. Today, the gospel tells us how Mary proceeded to travel, to meet and share this great news with her cousin Elizabeth. This was before the time of camera smart phones or any form of social media. Thus, we arrive at what happens at the first meeting of two pregnant women. "Through the light of the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth recognized Mary’s privilege as the mother of the longed-for Messiah." In the conversation that follows, Elizabeth praises the Blessed Virgin Mary saying, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me."

Mary's visit to her cousin is a pleasant surprise but also a priceless gift offered at the great moment of Elizabeth's need. At her sixth month pregnancy, Mary offered her older cousin much needed support and comfort. It is an act of humility for us to serve others. Mary also carried a baby-Jesus who will emphasize the beautiful act of service to humanity. So, besides buying Christmas gifts, cards, etc., there is another gift many people find difficult to give. That is the gift of themselves. Put simply, being present to others when needed. That is what Mary gave to Elizabeth. It was not only being present but also assisting and serving her needs. This is the gift so many desire today but cannot get it. It is easy to send flowers, it is easy to send a parcel, but to give the gift of ourselves, to make the time to be with somebody, that is the gift that many people long for but do not receive at Christmas. Following Mary's example in today's Gospel story, we must, in addition to other beautiful gifts we offer, also give ourselves, our presence and our time to people who need us. You must find the time to visit and be with people who might need you. Visit to a loved one, to a friend or to the sick can be a priceless gift.

–Fr. Abuchi



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“The coming of Jesus at Bethlehem brought joy to the world and to every human heart. May His coming this Christmas bring to each one of us that peace and joy He desires to give”

–Saint Mother Theresa