

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Sunday, December 15, 2019
Third 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

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

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OLMC JOY CLUB (Just Older Youth)

Patricia Cholasta 973-534-7733

YOUTH MINISTER

Aneesha Begraft mtcarmelyouths@gmail.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, Council 9920

Vincent Kornmeyer Grand Knight
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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 14 – Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

SIR 48:1-4, 9-11 / MT 17:9A, 10-13

8:30 am Doug Ernst *by Sylvester Family*5:00 pm Robert Metroke *by Mazzola Family*

Sunday, December 15

IS 35:1-6A, 10 / JAS 5:7-10 / MT 11:2-11

7:30 am Brighton Anabelle Gray
*by JoAnn Lacovara-Friel*9:00 am Recovery of Barbara Froetscher
*by Parish Staff*11:00 am Clarence Remke *by Pat & Lester Zaleski*

Monday, December 16

NM 24:2-7, 15-17A / MT 21:23-27

8:30 am Irene Ruiz *by Mazzola Family*

Tuesday, December 17

GN 49:2, 8-10 / MT 1:1-17

8:30 am Intentions of Brian & Tina Johnson
by Ron & Ann Johnson

Wednesday, December 18

JER 23:5-8 / MT 1:18-25

7:00 pm Intentions of Cee Cee Barther
by Cecilia Barther

Thursday, December 19

JGS 13:2-7, 24-25A

8:30 am Intentions of Cecilia Barther
by Cecilia Barther

Friday, December 20

IS 7:10-14 / LK 1:26-38

8:30 am Intentions of Cecilia Barther
by Cecilia Barther

Saturday, December 21

SG 2:8-14 / LK 1:39-45

8:30 am Intentions of Cee Cee Barther
*by Cecilia Barther*5:00 pm James Corcoran & Fred Manak
by Pat & Lester Zaleski

Sunday, December 22

IS 7:10-14 / ROM 1:1-7 / MT 1:18-24

7:30 am Vincent Anthony Lacovara
*by JoAnn Lacovara-Friel*9:00 am Doug Ernst *by Parish Staff*11:00 am Intentions of Cecilia Barther
by Cecilia Barther

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING

Ann Bott, Walter & Concetta Brock Jr., Bradley Burchfield, Ted Cassera, Joseph Colon, Olivia Compton, Fr. Angelus Croce, Stephanie Cuomo, Ingrid Diaz, Kara Deserto, Richard Hennings, Barbara Ingallinera, Eva Kieger, Ava Kljajic, Michael Kochanski, Bruce Konar, Joshua Koontz, Alex Krucinski, John Kucinski, Kden LeoGrande, Pete Mahler, Maria Mallozzi, Mary Jo Manno, Deacon Charles Mathias, Susanne Martone, Bob Metroke, Greyson Christopher Mueller, Deacon Ed Muller, Bill Nagy, Mary Ellen Nienstedt, Stephen Osborn, Jason Parker, Harry Pasternak Sr., Lorraine Paxton, Clarence Remke, Peter F. Reynolds, Tammy Rivers, Charles Schult, William Schult, Carol Rock, Colleen Romano, Olga Romeo, Linda Ross, Rose Marie Sciascia, Carole Salvatore, John Samsock, Greg Schmiditty, Marianne Skrocki, Debbie Smith, Stephanie, Andrew Sorce, Richie Sorce, Dale Swoboda, Roberta Treptau, Connie VanHoven, David & Vince Ventresca, Fred Worman, Brooke Zaleski

A GOOD STEWARD

Sunday, December 8	\$ 2,452.00
Online Giving	\$ 270.00
Religious Retirement	\$ 770.00
Diocesan Assessment	
Online Giving	\$ 180.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 470.00

Thank you for your generosity!

*This Week the
Sanctuary Lamp Burns for
Clarence Remke*



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; Pvt. Chance Phillips, Army; Captain Cheryl Ryan, US Army; Seaman Recruit Tyler Joseph Salonia; Ethan Swartz; Michael Valeich, Staff Sergeant; Pvt. Kyle Titus, US Army; Pvt. Zachary Wharton, Robert Williams, Airman



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

- ***Sacrament of Reconciliation** - Wednesday, December 18 at 7:30 pm after Mass.
- *Tuesday - **Christmas Eve Mass** schedule is 6:00 PM and Midnight Mass.
- *Wednesday – **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.

Confession:

“A voice is calling, ‘Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness; make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.’”(Isaiah 40:3) This verse from the first reading for the Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 10, reminds all faithful that the liturgical season leading up to Christmas is a time for preparation and purification.

Amid the many ways Catholics get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus — festive potlucks, Misa de Gallo, caroling, gift-giving, entertaining family and friends — the sacrament of reconciliation is often overlooked. Yet a good confession can be one of the best ways to enter into the joy of the nativity with a clean heart, light and love.

GRACE OF WEEKDAY MASSES

Attending weekday Mass is a way we can celebrate the feast days and holy days of the liturgical year. For Catholics, every day is a holiday. Not only do we have great feast days such as Christmas, but we have many days honoring the Blessed Mother, and the numerous saints and blessed who are part of our family in the Church.

The Mass is the greatest way we can help others. At the beginning of each Mass, we can offer it for someone or for a specific intention, such as the protection of unborn babies from abortion or world peace. We can also arrange to have Masses celebrated for individuals who are living or deceased, or for our intentions.

It is not always possible to go to Mass every day, but whenever we can, taking the opportunity would benefit us. Sometimes attending weekday Mass involves sacrifice, as you might need to get up earlier to go to Mass before work or drive some distance to find a Mass celebrated at a time that is suited to your schedule. As our attendance at Mass often depends on our work schedule, we may go to Mass at churches other than our parish, an experience that is like a pilgrimage. Going to Mass frequently gives us peace and prepares to be ready when God will call us back home.

**JOY Club Christmas Party****(Fellowship for Parishioners over 55)**

The date for our next **JOY CLUB** meeting is **Saturday, December 21st at 12pm** in the Church Hall. Lunch will be served. Come join us for good company and some fun. Unisex grab bag optional \$10. Everyone planning on attending needs to RSVP by December 18th. If you have any questions or need a ride, please contact Patricia (973)534-7733.

CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR LOVED ONES LIVING OR DECEASED

Have you ever thought about sending or requesting Mass for a friend, a loved one living or deceased as a Christmas gift? Why not offer such a beautiful gift to them. The reason that this tradition has been passed on for centuries is because of the many spiritual fruits that result from this form of prayer. The celebration of the Eucharist is the highest form of worship in the Catholic Church because we unite ourselves with Christ's sacrifice on the cross in worship of His Father.

1.) It doesn't cost anything...but if you're able to give, an offering is appreciated: There is no price tag on the Mass, however, it is customary to give an offering when requesting a Mass for an intention. That said, money should never be the reason for deciding against this beautiful tradition. Simply make your request known and talk with a priest who will make sure that a Mass is able to be said.

2.) A Mass can be offered for a person who is still living: Though we often think of having a Mass said for those who have passed away, Masses can be offered for those who are still alive. The Council of Trent says that Mass may be said "for the living and the dead, for sins, punishments, satisfactions, and other necessities." In other words, if you know someone who could benefit from the spiritual graces that come with having a Mass said on their behalf, there is no need to delay in doing so.

3.) You can have a Mass said in Thanksgiving or for a celebration: Again, most people remember to have a Mass said for the death of a loved one and a few may think to have a Mass offered for a special intention for a friend who is suffering, but rarely do we think of having a Mass offered for a celebration! Is there a better way to show our gratitude to God? Masses can be said for birthdays, anniversaries, in celebration of the reception of the sacraments, or for prayers that have been answered!

Knights of Columbus Announcement

Congratulations to the three winners of this year's Knights of Columbus Christmas raffle.

Stella Apostola \$668.50

John O'Connor \$191.00

Ray Doyle \$95.50

As always, the Knights thank you for your continued support.

WHAT TO DO IN ADORATION

Sometimes we can be intimidated to go to Adoration. It is not because we fear being with Jesus in prayer but rather we have never been taught what to do in an extended period of prayer. Is it alright to read, pray a Rosary, or reflect upon the Scriptures? Or do I have to sit there- not moving or making a sound, staring at a gold monstrance with a Host inside?

While visiting our Lord in Eucharistic Adoration, we can pray in a variety of different ways. Here are some suggestions:

1. *Pray the Psalms or the Liturgy of the Hours*
Whether you are praising, giving thanks, asking for forgiveness or seeking an answer, you'll find an appropriate psalm. The ancient prayer of the Church called the Liturgy of the Hours presents an excellent way to pray through the Book of Psalms throughout the year.
2. *Recite the "Jesus Prayer"*
Say "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner," repeatedly as you quiet your heart and mind.
3. *Meditate using Scripture*
Choose a passage from the Bible. Read the words and ask God to let the passage speak to you. Pay special attention to anything that strikes you and ask God what He wishes for you to draw from that message.
4. *Read the life of a saint and pray with him or her*
Most holy men and women have had a great devotion to Our Lord in the Eucharist. Therese of Lisieux, Catherine of Siena, Francis of Assisi, Thomas Aquinas, Peter Julian Eymard, Dorothy Day, Mother Teresa of Calcutta and Baroness Catherine de Hueck are just a few. Read about them and pray their prayers before the Blessed Sacrament.
5. *Pour out your heart to Christ and adore Him*
Speak to Jesus, aware that you are in His presence, and tell Him all that comes to your mind. Listen for His response. Pray the prayer that St. Francis instructed his brothers to pray whenever they were

before the Blessed Sacrament: "I adore You, O' Christ, present here and in all the churches of the world, for by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world."

6. *Ask for forgiveness and intercede for others*
Think of those who have hurt you and request a special blessing for them. Ask God to forgive you for all the times you have neglected or hurt someone else. Bring before the Blessed Sacrament all those who have asked you to pray for them. Ask the Lord to address their concerns.
7. *Pray the Rosary*
Pope John Paul II reminds us, "...is not the enraptured gaze of Mary as she contemplated the face of the newborn Christ and cradled him in her arms that unparalleled model of love which should inspire us every time we receive Eucharistic communion?" (The Church and the Eucharist, 55) Ask Mary to join you as you gaze on Christ in the Eucharist and as you pray the Rosary.
8. *Sit quietly and just "be" in the presence of God*
Think of a visit to the Blessed Sacrament as coming to see your best friend. Sit quietly and enjoy being in each other's company. Instead of talking to the Lord, try listening to what He wants to tell you.

SACRAMENTAL NEEDS

Sacrament of Anointing: Please call the parish priest as soon as there is any serious illness.

Ministry to the Sick: Please call the parish office for a priest visit to the physically handicapped, aged, hospitalized, sick and shut in.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated individually every Saturday afternoon at 4:15pm or by individual appointment with Fr. Abuchi at any time.

Baptisms: Parents may contact the parish before or after their child's birth. The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated every Sunday at the 11 am Mass or after. We also accommodate other days. You will be invited to attend a Pre-Baptismal session either before or after the birth of your child.

Sacramental Marriage ~ The couple should contact the office several months before the desired date for the marriage to insure proper preparation for this Sacrament. Those who are civilly married may also contact the priest to help them convalidate their marriage in the Church.

Sponsor Certificates: Letters of recommendation for sponsors of the Sacraments can be issued only to active registered members of the parish who are receiving the Sacraments on a regular basis.



Why did the Baptist send his urgent question from his prison cell to Jesus: “Are you He that is to come?”

Last week’s reading prophesied there would come one day a new and hopeful future from the line of king David. “It would appear like a shoot, a tender new growth, springing up from the splintered stump and roots of the former greatness of Judah.” Isaiah told the people to ground their hope in that tender new day. Today he continues his message but giving a little more detail about the 'new day.' The new era prophesied by Isaiah will include transformation of a desert to an abundant growth of flowers. And God who is able to bring life in the desert is also able to heal whatever suffering afflicts God’s people. Then he went on to announce God will come to save His people. The era will see a dramatic change never experienced before. The future will bring an opening of the eyes of the blind, a clearing of the ears of the deaf, and an empowering of the lame to leap, the mute will sing and so forth. Isaiah's prophecy will of course take hundreds of years to come to light.

Today's gospel fulfills that prophecy. John the Baptist was the voice that called people in preparation for this new era. John's fiery delivery, unorthodox appearance, and fire and brimstone message ruffled the feathers of those in power especially, Herod and his supporters. It had been a long time since people had preaching like John. His absolute truth rubbed the fur of those in power the wrong way. Consequently, that truthful message and sermon landed him in prison as we read in today's gospel account. "While waiting in prison, John heard about the ministry of Jesus. John had clearly and publicly identified Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah, and he probably expected to hear of Jesus thrashing the evil-doers and dispensing Divine wrath, in fulfillment of John’s predictions. But instead, John’s disciples told him that Jesus was spending His time healing lepers, blind people, and crippled persons, and even raising the dead. As noble as these pursuits sounded, John began to wonder if Jesus was being too soft in His ministry. Shouldn’t Jesus be spending His time slinging judgment rather than setting up a hospital? In fact, John even sent a disciple to ask Jesus again if He really was the promised One after all. Could it be that John was mistaken when he hailed Jesus as the Messiah?"

"Jesus received this wonderment by John without criticism for the Baptist. He instead used this moment to reassure John that His ministry of care for the oppressed was in sync with the preaching of Isaiah and the other prophets, and He quoted our Old Testament lesson from Isaiah we read today as evidence." However, Jesus will not go soft as John originally thought. Ultimately, Jesus would speak the truth in ways that would ruffle the feathers of those in power too, like John and the prophets before him. Did John have doubts about Jesus to ask if He is the messiah? No. It was because of the peaceful way that Jesus behaved, not at all like the violent revolutionary the Jews expected as their Messiah. Jesus told him what God’s messenger would be like: healer of the sick, consoler of the suffering, preacher of freedom and truth to the poor. In continuation of Jesus ministry, may you and I spend part of this beautiful season of Advent to care for the sick, console and comfort the suffering. Spend more time with those who need you and make a difference in the lives of the needy. And that is the good news Christ preached during His era and that is also the joy of preparing for the coming of Jesus. —Fr. Abuchi



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“May the Holy Spirit enkindle you with the fire of His love so that you may persevere, unflinching, in the love of His service. Thus you may merit to become, at last, a living stone in the celestial Jerusalem.”

–Saint Hildegard von Bingen