

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Sunday, December 22, 2019
Fourth Sunday of Advent



PARISH STAFF

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Deacon Anthony Barile
Deacon Al Kucinski
Deacon Edward Muller
Dan Salvatore Coordinator of Religious Education
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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, Council 9920

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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 21

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

8:30 am Intentions of Cee Cee Barther

by Cecilia Barther

5:00 pm James Corcoron & 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

Monday, December 23

MAL 3:1-4, 23-24 / LK 1:57-66

8:30 am Intentions of Cecilia Barther

by Cecilia Barther

Tuesday, December 24

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

8:30 am Intentions of Cecilia Barther

by Cecilia Barther

Christmas Eve

6:00 pm For All OLMC Parishioners & their Families

12:00 am For All OLMC Parishioners & their Families

Wednesday, December 25 - Nativity of the Lord

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

7:00 pm For All OLMC Parishioners & their Families

Thursday, December 26 - Feast of Saint Stephen

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

8:30 am George Romano

by Parish Staff

Friday, 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 & Ray Nazzaro*

Saturday, December 28 - Feast of the Holy Innocents

1 JN 1:5-2:2 / MT 2:13-18

8:30 am George Romano *by Dan & Dina Salvatore*

5:00 pm Intentions of Daniel & Veronica Stevans

by JoAnn Lacovara-Friel

Sunday, December 29 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

SIR 3:2-6, 12-14 / COL 3:12-21 / MT 2:13-15, 19-23

7:30 am Therese Myzwiniski *by JoAnn Lacovara-Friel*9:00 am _____ *by _____*11:00 am George Romano *by Parish Staff*

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 15

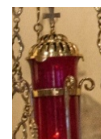
\$ 2,621.00

Online Giving

\$ 250.00

Thank you for your generosity!

*This Week the
Sanctuary Lamp Burns for the
Healing of Raymond Doyle*



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

*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.

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS IS THE PERFECT TIME TO MEDITATE ON HUMILITY

When you imagine the scene of Jesus' birth, it is difficult not to meditate on the virtue of humility.

While Lent and Holy Week often focus on the immense suffering Jesus endured for our sake, the seasons of Advent and Christmas present the perfect opportunity to focus on humility and poverty.

This comes alive especially when we sit and meditate on the humble scene of Jesus' birth. Often modern Nativity scenes don't communicate this central truth strongly enough, as the constructed stable can look almost cozy and warm, instead of what was likely the cold, messy and brutal reality behind it all.

A meditation found in a 19th century prayer book on the Child Jesus highlights this profound mystery.

It is midnight. The winter air is cold and chill. See a comfortless stable, partly shed and partly cave, hallowed in the side of a rock. A poor place indeed. The keen breeze finds its way in freely. In that stable lies a BABE. His only cradle is a manger from which cattle feed. He lies there on the rough straw – a new-born Babe. His little limbs are wrapped around with swathing bands like the babes of the poorest.

Sit with that scene for a few minutes. Think about the poverty of it all and how uncomfortable it must have been! Being in a modern hospital room isn't all that great, but just think of what it was like giving birth in such circumstances.

The scene should move us to ask God for the **gift of humility** and to examine our own lives, asking ourselves if our modern comforts hold any influence over our spiritual lives.

Here is a short prayer that comes after the above meditation, asking God to fill us with a greater sense of humility.

Jesus, I thank Thee for coming thus. Great God, how Thou hast humbled Thyself? It seems too much, too wonderful, but I know that it is true. Nothing is too wonderful, for Thy great, Thy everlasting love. For love of Thee I will be humble. Take away my pride and my self-will. Mary, I thank thee and bless thee for loving God so nobly, so purely, so humbly, that He gave His dear Son to us through thee. Pray to that Son, that I may have grace to learn of Him and thee to be meek and humble of heart. Joseph, Foster-father of Jesus, the Heart of that holy Child beats for me. Mary is my Mother; pray for me that I may be truly humble and belong to this Holy Family, now, and at the hour of my death, and for evermore.

Have a Blessed Merry Christmas!

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!

"Could you not watch one hour with Me?"

Jesus waits for us in the Blessed Sacrament. He waits for our little Acts of faith, adoration, love, thanksgiving, repentance, reparation and charity that we can offer Him as we contemplate -- His Divine Majesty -- in the Blessed Sacrament.

St. Alphonsus Liguori wrote: "Of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the Sacraments, the one dearest to God and the one most helpful to us". The Eucharist is a priceless treasure: By not only celebrating the Eucharist, but also by praying before It outside of Mass, we are enabled to make contact with the very wellsprings of Grace ..."

Pope John Paul II in one of his homilies said, "It is pleasant to spend time with Him, to lie close to His breast like the Beloved Disciple (cf. Jn 13:25) and to feel the infinite love present in His heart ... If, in our time Christians must be distinguished by the "art of prayer", how can we not feel a renewed need to spend time in spiritual conversation, in silent adoration, in heartfelt love before Christ present in the Most Holy Sacrament?"

"The Lord is faithful to all His promises and loving toward all He has made." (Ps 145:13)

Day and night Jesus dwells in the Blessed Sacrament because of His Infinite love for us!

Jesus gives us His body (to eat) so that He can nourish us, strengthen us and give us His own life and lest we be blinded by His glory, He humbles Himself to come to us in the humble species of bread... "Behold I will be with you always even to the end of the world," because "I have loved you with an everlasting love, and constant is My affection for you." (Mt 28:20; Jer 31:3)

How must we respond? ...Through our worship and recognition of Him in the Eucharist! He is calling us to faith, that we many come to Him in humility.

"Come to Me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Are you tired because of the burden of your duties, because of frustration due to unsuccessful projects, because many misunderstand you? Are you heavy laden with guilt from past sins? Are you trying to find hope and meaning in life? Do not lose heart! Abandon yourself to Jesus in this "Sacrament of Love": He will refresh you!

The more time you spend with Jesus, the more you will come away feeling renewed and healed.

Miracles of conversion, peace, discovery of vocations, answers to prayers, physical healings, and many other wonderful things happen where and when the Lord Jesus is adored in the Blessed Sacrament. They are the "gifts" that point to the Almighty Giver and testify to His Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament.

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.



If God were to ask you to change your plans, to make room for His plans, would you?

It is very close to Christmas. In fact, these are the final days of gift-buying. People would also ask. "How do I find the perfect gift? What do I give to the person who already has everything they need or want? How will I find the time this last week in the maddening rush of long lines at the malls and check-out registers?"

Besides giving and receiving gifts, the greatest gift God gave us is Jesus. It is God's surprise gift to Mary, to Joseph, to the shepherds, to king Herod, to the Magi, and to the average people. "God's surprise was that He stepped quietly and gently into the pool of human history, in person, incarnate in that tiny child. But as any lover will tell you, the smallest packages are often the most important. And so, with this tiny baby's arrival into the home of Joseph and Mary, human history shifted, like huge doors turning on a small hinge." During the appearance of angel Gabriel to Mary, he gave a name for the child to be born. Biblical names have deep meaning. For instance, Abraham meant "Father of a great people" (Gen. 17:5) and Moses meant "Rescued from the Waters" (Ex. 2:10.) Above all, our blessed Lord has names which tell us everything about Him: "Jesus" means "God saves," "Christ" means "God's Anointed Messiah" and the name "Emmanuel" in today's Gospel, means "God in our midst."

Jesus-Emmanuel shares our lot, our life-experience and our troubles. It is worthwhile for us to reflect on the simplicity and poverty of Our Lord's birth: how human He was, born of a young woman, not in luxurious comfort, but in the discomfort of a stable. That shows Him as one of us, the human side of "Emmanuel." However, the gospel also mentions the divine origin of Jesus. Although He has a human mother, He has not a human father, but was conceived in Mary by the power of God. "This unique way of coming into life, with God as father, and the virgin Mary as mother, underlines who Jesus truly is: both God and man, one of ourselves and yet one with the eternal God." When the angel announced to Joseph that Mary, his betrothed wife, was with child, he was understandably surprised, to say the least. God's plan and surprises requires those who receive it to be willing to let go their personal plans and to abandon their preconceived notions of reality. And in the case of Joseph and Mary, God's surprise asked of them a complete trust and the willingness to be open to a completely new plan for their lives. "For Joseph, the surprise of God called for him to abandon his plan to divorce Mary, to be open to the unprecedented miracle of the virgin birth, and to provide the shelter and protection to both Mary and the baby that they would need."

So, here is the question. If God were to ask you to change your plans, to make room for His plans, would you? Try this out on God's smaller requests. Are you willing to alter your financial plan in order to be more generous to the poor and the needs of the Church? And if so, how bold would you be? Sometimes we allow our goals and dreams, our graphs and charts, to become more sacred than God's plans for us, and they begin to block the possibility of a new and more noble dream God has for us. If God asked you to amend or abandon your plans, would you? Or if God asked you to exchange your vacation for a caring to a sick person would you? Joseph and Mary said yes to God's plan. And because both of them said "yes," God's great surprise was given to us all. Would you listen to God's plans for you and change your plan?

—Fr. Abuchi



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Let us love the Cross and let us remember that we are not alone in carrying it. God is helping us. And God who is comforting us, as St. Paul says, we can do anything."

—Saint Gianna Molla