SUNDAY OFFERING
Due to the holiday schedules for the bulletin printing collection amounts will be updated when possible. Thank you

Faith Direct Donations in November 2019 were: $9,836.00
Grocery Gift Card Sales for 2019: $62,085.00  Profit: $3,104.25

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!
Reminder: If you attend Mass at either St. Luke’s or St. Mark’s you can drop your Our Lady of the Mountain envelope in the collection basket and it will be credited as your donation to Our Lady of the Mountain.

FAITH DIRECT
During Advent we prepare our minds and hearts for the real meaning of Christmas, the birth of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. As we reflect on the upcoming Christmas season, it is likely that we will be busy with parties and family gatherings. Perhaps even a trip out of town to visit friends. With all of those joyous celebrations, we might miss Mass. That’s where eGiving with Faith Direct can help simplify your life. By supporting Our Lady of the Mountain, both you and our parish can save some time and peace of mind this holiday season. Signing up is easy! Visit faith.direct/NJ568, or text the word ENROLL to (Text Phone Number) to make a one-time gift today!

MINISTRIES

Altar Servers
Fr. Javier
876-4395

Baptism Preparation
Fr. Marcin
876-4395

Children’s Liturgy
Debi Pinelli
813-1982

Columbiettes
Joanne Lee
973-699-6793

Eucharistic Ministers
Cindy Jones
684-0661

Evangelization
Renny Hodgskin
876-4395

Food Pantry Director
Traci Geraghty
876-4003

Gift Shop
Fran Clary
852-5779

Knights of Columbus
John Clary
852-5779

Lectors
Chris Latran
852-9341

Music/Choir Director
Rita Mueller
973-862-2095

R.C.I.A.
Fr. Marcin
876-4395

Rosary Altar Society
Carol Petronella
732-794-8382

Sacristan
Linda Richartz
876-4395

Visiting Ministry
Deacon Bob Head
684-8399

Weddings
Kim Smith
876-4395

Local Youth Protection / Safe Environment Coordinator: Kim Smith

SANCTUARY LAMP
In memory of Dn. Pat VanOrman

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THIS WEEK’S EVENTS

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<td>No Religious Ed. Classes</td>
<td>No Peer Ministry</td>
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MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,

On this first Sunday after Christmas every year when families are reunited again, the Church places before us for our reflection the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The family is part of God’s plan for us. God wants our families to be holy. The family is the basic unit of society and the Church; we could say the family is a little church. It is in the family that we first learn to communicate. It is in the family that we learn what love is. It is in the family that we first learn to forgive and to pray. It is in the family that we first learn about God and Jesus and Our Lady. It is in the family that first we learn our values and what is good and bad. The future of humanity depends on the family because it is through families that society continues. There are many attempts to destroy the family in our times but if the family will be destroyed in western society, the western world will crumble because all humanity comes through the family. There are many attempts today to redefine the family but they do not reflect God’s plan for the family.

The Letter to the Ephesians reveals much to us about God’s plan for the family. Husbands are to love their wives just as Christ loves the Church; in fact their love is to be a reflection of Christ’s love for the Church. Children are to be obedient to their parents. The Letter to the Colossians reminds us to put the message of Christ in the center of our homes and lives.

I believe that the greatest threat facing families now is simply that we don’t spend enough time together. We are so busy working, or socializing, or watching TV that we have less and less time for each other. When we love our family we want to sacrifice ourselves by spending time with them, and all the more so when we realize that by not spending time with them we are depriving them of our love and hurting them.

To encourage families today I want to share with you words that we first heard from Pope John Paul II: To all I say, revere and protect your family and your family life, for the family is the primary field of Christian action for the Irish laity, the place where your ‘royal priesthood’ is chiefly exercised. The Christian family has been in the past Ireland’s greatest spiritual resource. Modern conditions and social changes have created new patterns and new difficulties for family life and for Christian marriage. I want to say to you: do not be discouraged, do not follow the trends where a close-knit family is seen as outdated; the Christian family is more important for the Church and for society today than ever before.” (Homily of Pope John Paul II in Limerick, Monday October 1st, 1979)

Family, believe in what you are; believe in your vocation to be a luminous sign of God’s love”….Family, be for the people of our time a “sanctuary of life”. Christian family, be a “domestic church”, faithful to your evangelical vocation.

Let us thank God for all the graces and blessings our families enjoy and let us also ask God to bless our families and help our families continue to grow to become what they are called to be.

JANUARY 1ST – SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD – HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

On January 1st in the liturgy of the church we celebrate Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God. What does the title Mother of God say about Jesus? It means that the humanity and divinity of Jesus are united in Jesus. There is not a separate human Jesus and a separate divine Jesus, there is one Jesus with a human nature and a divine nature, true God and true man, and because there is one Jesus we say Mary is Mother of God.

MASSES AT OLM:
New Year’s Eve: 4:30PM
New Year’s Day: 10AM, 12NOON

MASSES AT ST. MARK:
New Year’s Eve: 5PM
New Year’s Day: 9:30AM

ST. MARK’S — NEW YEAR’S DAY 5K — JANUARY 1, 2020 11:30 AM — REGISTER NOW!!!

5K Course through Nestling Woods. USATF Certified Course. Register at RUNSIGNUP.COM/RACE/NJ/LongValley/StMarksNewYearsDay5K.

Bagels and Hot Chocolate will be provided at an indoor awards ceremony with drawings for prizes.

Come Join Us!! All are Welcome! Contact Kim at fkdunn@comcast.net for more information.

Every First Friday of the month we have Holy Hour (7pm – 8pm). During Holy Hour priest is also available for Sacrament of Reconciliation. Do we know how many people came in December? Only Dc. Tom and me.

WHY SPENDING A HOLY HOUR BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT?
-You are greatly needed! "The Church and the world have a great need of Eucharistic Adoration." (Pope John Paul II).
-This is a personal invitation to you from Jesus. "Jesus waits for us in this sacrament of love." (Pope John Paul II).
FROM FR. JAVIER

TEACHING FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH
The Sacrament of Holy Orders

The Celebration of this Sacrament
My dear brothers and sisters, given the importance that the ordination of a bishop, a priest, or a deacon has for the life of the particular Church, its celebration calls for as many of the faithful as possible to take part. It should take place preferably on Sunday, in the cathedral, with solemnity appropriate to the occasion. All three ordinations, of the bishop, of the priest, and of the deacon, follow the same movement. Their proper place is within the Eucharistic liturgy.

The essential rite of the sacrament of Holy Orders for all three degrees consists in the bishop's imposition of hands on the head of the ordinand and in the bishop's specific consecratory prayer asking God for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and his gifts proper to the ministry to which the candidate is being ordained.

According with the catechism of the Catholic Church in all the sacraments there are additional rites surround the celebration. “Varying greatly among the different liturgical traditions, these rites have in common the expression of the multiple aspects of sacramental grace. Thus in the Latin Church, the initial rites - presentation and election of the ordinand, instruction by the bishop, examination of the candidate, litany of the saints - attest that the choice of the candidate is made in keeping with the practice of the Church and prepare for the solemn act of consecration, after which several rites symbolically express and complete the mystery accomplished: for bishop and priest, an anointing with holy chrism, a sign of the special anointing of the Holy Spirit who makes their ministry fruitful; giving the book of the Gospels, the ring, the miter, and the crosier to the bishop as the sign of his apostolic mission to proclaim the Word of God, of his fidelity to the Church, the bride of Christ, and his office as shepherd of the Lord's flock; presentation to the priest of the paten and chalice, “the offering of the holy people” which he is called to present to God; giving the book of the Gospels to the deacon who has just received the mission to proclaim the Gospel of Christ.”

God bless you.

The Knights are sponsoring a bus to the March for Life in Washington DC on January 24, 2020. To reserve a seat or more info, email mike.lennon@comcast.net

Reflection for the Week
Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. MT 7:12

If you would like to be a part of an international organization of nearly 2 million Catholic men whose principal work involves helping others in need, we'd like to meet you. “We dry the mourners tear, The tired heart we cheer, Faith in our works appear.”

Become a Knight! www.lvkofc.org

Religious Education

Grade K - 6 --- NO CLASSES December 22 & 29
Grade 7 ------ Monday, January 6th------ 6:00 - 7:15 pm
Grade 8 ------ Monday, January 13th------ 6:00 - 7:15 pm
Grade 9 ------ Monday, January 6th------ 7:30 - 9:00 pm
Grade 10----- Monday, January 13th------ 7:30 - 9:00 pm

High School Youth Group
Grades 9 to 12
Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9:00 pm
(Teen Center)

WHY WE ARE CATHOLIC

We are Catholic because we believe:
The flight into Egypt and the massacre of the innocents make manifest the opposition of darkness to the light: "He came to his own home, and his own people received him not." Christ's whole life was lived under the sign of persecution. His own share it with him. Jesus' departure from Egypt recalls the exodus and presents him as the definitive liberator of God's people. The Catechism of the Catholic Church 530

IMPORTANT
A growing number of parishes are reporting that they, their parishioners, and parish staff have been receiving a request to buy gift cards for their pastor and get them to a particular address. If you get such an email, you can be rather sure that this is a scam. Our priests do not ask parishioners to buy gift cards for them. Please be vigilant!!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS
There are envelopes on the ushers table at all of the doors of the church if you would like to remember a loved one with a flower donation. They will be listed in the bulletin after Christmas. Thank you.
**COAT DRIVE?**

Have an extra coat hanging in the closet? The High School Youth Ministry is collecting new and gently used coats (all ages & sizes!) for the Father English Center. Hats, scarves, gloves, and all winter outer wear is also needed. Drop off in the bins in Gathering Room Saturday, December 28th thru Sunday, January 5th. Any questions, please call the H.S. Youth Ministry office at 908-876-5024.

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**CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE**

Thank you so very much for all of the gifts bought and given to our annual giving tree recipients! The excitement on the faces of those who have touched is wonderful. This year we again served our local community, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Warren County and Straight and Narrow Drug Rehab for our diocese. Your kindness is so greatly appreciated.

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**“PIZZA WITH THE BISHOP”**

There will be two evening events in the month of February, both from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm:
- Monday, February 3 at DePaul High School in Wayne
- Thursday, February 13 at Pope St. John XXIII High School in Sparta.

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Please remember to pray for the sick of our parish community who have requested our prayers: Baby Aiden, Anthony Arbolino, Arianna Anello, Bob Beck, Vic Berzanski, Addison Bigos, Alex Birdshall, Julien Bonifacio, Noah Bonita, Toni Brenner, Christina Britthly, Tim Burns, Josephine Canova, Patricia Carroll, Joseph Caruso, Ron Caruso, James Castagna, Jeff Cheripka, Robert Cheripka, David Chung, Eric Clemente, Robert Curtis, Sr., Randy Clymer, William Corcho, Chris Cornell, Genevieve Dancicco, Gary Davila, Phyllis DeFranco, Christopher Delplato, Michelle Demarest, Mike Depew, Vito Dellibovi, Dennis Doner, Sue Elahie, Glenn Evans, Jayden Feichter, Michael Fiume, Barbara Froetscher, Mary Gallagher, Baby Antonia Gallardo, Ann Gentile, Jean Greco, Jerry Green, Don Grevera, Mike Grundy, Sr., Anabela Guerra, Laurel Jilek, Kristina Kantz, Michael Kennedy, Martin Kester, Carman Kissoczy, Salvatore Lombardo, Pam Longo, Raymond Luker, Jillian Martin, Nancy Martin, Judy Martino, Aiden Mason, Darlene McHugh, Ed Michonski, Jennifer Mollitor, Faith Morelli, Emilio Morrone, Bob Nunn, Nora Ochwat, Johnnie O’Conney, Jim Owens, Dennis Paradise, Arlene & Chandra Parikh, Anita Paterson, Jim & Carolynn Pauze, Stelios & Mary Pisipitos, Rita Powell, Deanna Procuito, Clifford Pultz, Art Quails, Suzanne Sturla Reid, Joanne Reilly, Dan Solerno, Kathleen Sanders, Jillian Sayre, Pauline Scala, Connor Scott, Colinda Shernce, Paula Smith, Brian Steli, Janet Stiles, Bob Taylor, Thomas Tell, Jr., April Turkmen, Paula Vocca, Lil Varga, Fred Walliser, Ronald Warner, Allen Watts, Ryan Wendt, Adrienne Werner, Alice Whedon, Betty Windt, Melissa Winters, Ron Zielensky & Issac Zujkowski. We are currently praying for the sick from the pulpit for one month then adding their names to this list in the bulletin.

If there is someone’s name listed that has passed away please contact the office and let us know. Thank you

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The St. Luke Catholic Preschool is currently accepting registrations for the 2020-2021 school year. This is how families describe the St. Luke preschool program:
- “Impressive”
- “Outstanding”
- “Highly Recommended”
- “Well Rounded”

Call to make an appointment to visit our school at 908-876-3515, Ext.41

Come and see for yourself how we can give your child an excellent start on a successful school career!

Forms are located in the Gathering Place and can also be accessed on the St. Luke website at www.stlukeparishlv.com

Upon Registration, a $50 non-refundable check is required to Reserve your child’s enrollment.

If you have any questions, please e-mail us at preschool@stlukelv.org

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**50/50 CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**

K of C council members from Long Valley, Hackettstown, and Washington form the Augustus J. Rampone Assembly # 2450. The Assembly represents the Patriotic Degree of the K of C. For the last 9 years proceeds from our 50/50 Christmas Raffle were donated to over 20 different Veteran and Charitable Organizations: The Military Chaplin’s Fund, RISE (Gary Sinise Foundation), Hope for Veteran’s, VA New Jersey Health Care System, Life Choices in Phillipsburg, and Homeless Solutions in Morristown to name a few.

Thanks to the generous support from OLM parishioners, AJR will be donating our net proceeds to an organization determined by our finance committee. This year the winning ticket of the raffle was purchased at OLM. The winner of that ticket, # 0776, was awarded $2,347.50. AJR wants to thank all of the OLM parishioners who have supported this endeavor over the years.

AJR wishes the parishioners of OLM a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year. May God Bless the families of OLM.