



**Weekly Mass Intentions**



Mass Intentions

**Saturday – December 12**

8:00am-† Rev. James J. Fedigan, SJ  
5:00pm-† Stella & Joseph Chociemski  
7:30pm- † Parish Community Intentions

*Offered by:* Mt. Carmel Parish  
*Offered by:* Frank Peters

**Sunday – December 13**

8:30am-† Dorothy & Nicholas Blanchard  
10:00am- † Rev. George Murray, SJ  
11:30am- † Parish Community Intentions  
1:30pm- † Parish Community Intentions  
6:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

*Offered by:* Frank Peters  
*Offered by:* Mt. Carmel Parish

**Monday– December 14**

8:00am-† John Lynch  
12:05pm- † Sallie Elkordy  
7:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

*Offered by:* Mt. Carmel Parish  
*Offered by:* Mt. Carmel Parish

**Tuesday – December 15**

12:05pm-† Rev. George Murray, SJ  
7:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

*Offered by:* Mt. Carmel Parish

**Wednesday – December 16**

8:00am-† Mamie Torre  
12:05pm- † Rev. David O. Travers, SJ  
7:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

*Offered by:* Annette Esposito  
*Offered by:* Mt. Carmel Parish

**Thursday – December 17**

12:05pm- † John Bruno  
7:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

*Offered by:* Mt. Carmel Parish

**Friday – December 18**

8:00am-† Hector Cruz  
12:05pm- † Anne DeFeo  
7:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

*Offered by:* Mt. Carmel Parish  
*Offered by:* Mt. Carmel Parish

**Saturday – December 19**

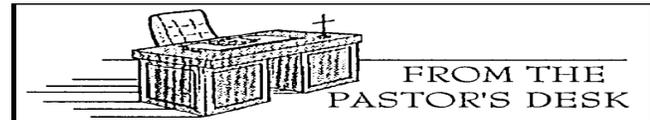
8:00am-† Pascal “Pat” Sportiello  
5:00pm-† Jim & Gene Obermayer

*Offered by:* Mt. Carmel Parish  
*Offered by:* Family

**Sunday – December 20**

8:30am-† Marianna & Vincent Raducha  
10:00am- † James & Victoria Crowdell

*Offered by:* Frank Peters  
*By:* daughter, Alexis Crowdell



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

**GAUDETE SUNDAY**

*"I am the voice that cries out in the desert"  
(John 1: 6-8, 19-28)*

The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday because today's opening antiphon begins with the word gaudete, which means rejoice. We rejoice today, for the coming of the Lord is so near that we cannot help but think about it. Perhaps we are starting to feel overwhelmed by all we need to do between now and Christmas. Let this be an opportunity to refocus our attention on the true reason to celebrate this time of the year. Rejoice, the Lord is near. For our parish this joyful Sunday celebration adds to our gladness since yesterday we had a beautiful feast in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas.

At the end of a year dominated by the pandemic, some even want to forget the pain it has produced. That is why the three readings wish us to be reminded of the good wishes that the Scripture has for us with the imminent coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. Isaiah, whom we could say is the prophet of hope, announces a year of grace and the day of redemption. Saint Paul in his letter to the Thessalonians urges them to live according to their condition, that is, to always be ready for Christ's return. Paul invites us to receive a positive encouragement from those who feel saved by the grace of Jesus Christ. The Gospel reveals to us the humility of those who know how to recognize their identity without affirming themselves in the glories of others. John tells his interlocutors that he is not the Messiah but "the voice that cries in the desert."

If we put the Prophet Isaiah in context, we can affirm that his words came in a time when hopes were reborn. The Jewish people had been released from exile and could finally return to Jerusalem. In some way God is the owner of everything created and only to Him must everything return if we want to achieve original harmony. In Jesus all the promises of bringing good news to the sad, freedom to the captives, and justice to the oppressed are fulfilled. Therefore this year with greater commitment we must rejoice because in Jesus we have been given the salvation that has freed us from death and leads us to live in the certainty of eternal life.

John is not the Messiah but the messenger. John is the one who has come to prepare the way of the Lord. That is why this paradigmatic figure, with an austere life, exotic dress and a diet more powerful than a low-fat one, invites each of us to prepare our hearts for Christmas. How do we do it? Recognizing Jesus in our neighbors. Let us recognize Jesus serving the least of our brothers and sisters.

← CONTINUED

**Weekly Memorials**

Bread & Wine  
Tabernacle Candle  
Memorial Candle  
Memorial Candle



~ For Our Parish Community  
~ †  
For the Safety & Health of  
All Our Parishioners

**COLLECTIONS**

December 5/6 - \$4,009.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of OUR Parish.

Today is a good time to put into practice the universal brotherhood to which Pope Francis invites us in his Encyclical Fratelli Tutti.

**Fr. Hernán, S.J.**

*"Christ guides us to be ourselves everyday, to give ourselves and serve others" (Pope Francis).*

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

These readings are found complete on our parish web page ([www.olmcsi.org](http://www.olmcsi.org)). Click on "USCCB Daily Readings."

### **December 13: Third Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11  
Luke 1:46-50, 53-54  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

### **December 20: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11  
Luke 1:46-50, 53-54  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24



**ADVENT PREPARATION** - Fr. Donald Gannon will offer his final session of the Advent Series on **Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020** from 10:30am to 11:30am. Join us as we come together in anticipation of Christ's coming. Let us recapture the original purpose of Advent so that we can receive the gift that the Lord wants to give us at His Nativity. You may call the rectory for more information. All Co-Vid precautions will be implemented.

We will be celebrating the birth of our Saviour and spending time in worship and praise. All are welcomed to attend. In the midst of the Advent season, let us come together to acknowledge the true reason for that excitement and anticipation. Join us at our family masses of vibrant praise and worship music. *Oh come let us adore Him!*

### **2020 ADORATION SCHEDULE for CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR**

Thursday, December 24 (**Christmas Eve**) at 4:00PM (English) and 7:30PM (Spanish)

*Families are invited to bring their Infant Jesus from their home Nativity scenes with them to Mass to be blessed.*

Friday, December 25 (**Christmas Day**) at 10:00am (English); 11:30AM & 1:30PM (Spanish)

Thursday, December 31 (**New Year's Eve**) at 12:05PM (English) and 7:30PM (Spanish)

Friday, January 1, 2021 (**New Year's Day**) at 10:00AM (English); 11:30AM & 1:30PM (Spanish)

**Please note:** On Thursdays, December 25 and December 31 the parish office will close at 1:00pm; and will be closed on Fridays, December 25, 2020 and January 1, 2021.

**PARISH CHRISTMAS RAFFLE** - Our Annual Christmas Raffle is here once again! Participate for your chance to win an assortment of beautiful Christmas Baskets. Raffle tickets can be obtained before/after each mass or at the rectory. The cost: 3 tickets for \$5 or 7 tickets for \$10. The raffle will be held on **Tuesday, December 22, 2020**. Thanks for your support and GOOD LUCK!

**CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE "ADOPT-A-FAMILY"** - We celebrate the true meaning of Christmas by sharing gifts with families in our parish community who are less fortunate. Participation can be as simple as removing an angel tag with the family information and returning it to the church. Join our parish families that give generously with their time and resources, to bring a few more blessings to others during the Christmas season. A family may be sponsored/adopted by one or more parishioners. Our deepest appreciation for your generosity year after year!

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS MEMORIAL ENVELOPES** - We have a nice tradition in which our parishioners donate for the Christmas Flowers that decorates our church every Christmas Season. These envelopes are available now in the envelope packet mailed to your homes or in the church vestibule. The envelopes with your intentions will be placed on the church altar for remainder of the Advent season.

**UPCOMING MASS SCHEDULE CHANGE FOR 2021** - Effective **January 2021**, there will be no 12:05pm Mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The only mass offered on Tuesdays & Thursdays will be at 7:00pm in Spanish. Schedules are never permanent and can be changed in the future as need demands. While this new schedule may be inconvenient to some, it is being instituted with the idea of improving the quality of our worship, not simply holding on to the same quantity of Masses. We thank you in advance for your understanding and unconditional support.

**LIVE STREAMING / VIRTUAL MASSES** - Keeps you connected with our parish through our Facebook page. Connect and follow us on FB to see these transmissions from the comfort of your homes each Sunday. Just search "olmc si" and send a friend request. You may access these masses from your smart phone or computer.

**Sunday Streamed Mass Schedule: 10:00am (English) & 11:30am (Spanish)**

**YOUR OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** - Please continue, to the best of your ability, your financial support of our parish. Your offering envelopes may be placed in the collection baskets at mass, dropped off at the rectory office, or mailed to us. **Better and easier: Make your secure online donations by visiting: [olmcsi.churhgiving.com](http://olmcsi.churhgiving.com)** and select the collection you wish to donate to and click to enter an amount, then enter your payment information (it can also be setup to be recurring). That's it. You'll be able to give to any of our collections, and you can return at any time to edit your donation or to view your financial records. Thank you for considering online giving for your support of our parish.

**ST. PAULS BOOKSTORE** - ST PAULS USA Bookstore is happy to re-open their doors to warmly welcome parishioners and friends. Visit and check out the entire collection of Bibles, prayer books, prayers for healing and religious articles for gift giving during Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion, Matrimony, Ordination, and special occasions. Be one of the first to see their new titles for 2021 annuals, for praying for the Sick and the Homebound and more. Take advantage of discounts. Visit ST PAULS at 2187 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, New York 10314. They open Tuesday to Saturday 9:30-11:45AM and 1:30-4:00. Visit our website: [www.stpaulsusa.com](http://www.stpaulsusa.com)