



Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ December 20, 2020



Weekly Mass Intentions



Mass Intentions

Saturday – December 19

8:00am-† Pascal “Pat” Sportiello
5:00pm- † Jim & Gene Obermayer
7:30pm- † Parish Community Intentions

Offered by: Mt. Carmel Parish
Offered by: Family

Sunday – December 20

8:30am-† Marianna & Vincent Raducha
10:00am- † James & Victoria Crowdell
11:30am- † Parish Community Intentions
1:30pm- † Parish Community Intentions
6:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

Offered by: Frank Peters
By: daughter, Alexis Crowdell

Monday – December 21

8:00am-† Helen Murray
12:05pm- † Franco Santiago
7:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

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

Tuesday – December 22

12:05pm-† Andrew & Ralph Frulio
7:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

Offered by: Frulio Family

Wednesday – December 23

8:00am-† Grace & Ciro Frulio
12:05pm- † Thomas Mormino, Sr.
7:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

Offered by: Frulio Family
Offered by: Family

Thursday – December 24 ~Christmas Eve~

4:00pm-† Charles & Nancy Pommerenk
7:30pm- † Parish Community Intentions

Offered by: Family

Friday – December 25 ~Christmas Day~

10:00am-† Fred Palumbo
11:30am- † Parish Community Intentions
1:30pm- † Parish Community Intentions

Offered by: wife & children

Saturday – December 26

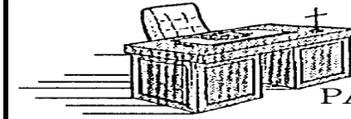
8:00am-† Joseph Cioffi
5:00pm-† Gerta & Frank Peters

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

Sunday – December 27

8:30am-† Carlos Amaya
10:00am- † Janet & Robert Richards

By: daughter, Rocio Babilonia
Offered by: Frank Peters



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son." (Luke 1: 26-38)

"Long is the wait for the one who waits, but longer is the wait without knowing what is expected" says the popular song. For us, people of good will is a sweet wait. Christmas is almost at the doorstep and this fourth Sunday of Advent does not want to be more than a reminder that the celebration of the Lord's coming is yet to come.

One wonders if we have already prepared our hearts to receive this sweet gift that is the Prince of Peace for all nations. The Child of Bethlehem wants to reach your heart and mine to make his home among us. Let us accept as Mary, the Pure Virgin, the invitation to bring the Son of God into our lives with holiness and in solidarity with those in need.

All of God's promises are fulfilled in Christ. The great Jesuit theologian Karl Rahner said that "God opened all the keys of heaven in Jesus Christ." God promised King David that "he would *have an heir and He will be a father to him and he will be my son*" (2 Sam 7: 12-14). For us, all those promises from the past were fulfilled the moment the Virgin Mary accepted to be the Mother of our Savior.

Jesus fulfills all the promises that Saint Paul defines as "the mystery kept secret for all ages" (Rom 16:25). In Jesus Christ we have been given all the graces, and only in Christ do we have the assurance that the plan of salvation of God promised from ancient times has its complexion.

Quite reasonably, Mary questioned the Angel Gabriel (*How can this be*) (Lk 1:34) when he first told her the incredible news. But when she learned of her cousin's unlikely pregnancy, she agreed to bear the Son of God. The Angel had assured her -and demonstrated to her- that "nothing will be impossible for God." Let these six words reassure us when we face those times in our lives when despair and hopelessness seem unavoidable. God always reveals himself as the Life that makes it possible for others to live. Today in a different time and with so many shadows of death, it is good to prepare ourselves for the message of God that is given to us with the birth of his Son. The best way is not a simple memory of the past but an active participation in the plan of salvation for all men and women of goodwill. Mary is the first to answer yes and we learn from our sweet Mother to say "**fiat**" to the will of God. We are called to say "yes to a life with dignity for all." We are called to say "yes to the love that Mary and Jesus shared with the poor and needy; and to say: "yes to the effort that dreams of a better tomorrow for everyone.

May these days before Christmas be full of dreams of goodwill for all. Let us pray together with Pope Francis

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Weekly Memorials

Bread & Wine
Tabernacle Candle
Memorial Candle
Memorial Candle



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

that "Each day offers us a new opportunity, a new possibility. We should not expect everything from those who govern us, for that would be childish. We have the space we need for co-responsibility in creating and putting into place new processes and changes. Let us take an active part in renewing and supporting our troubled societies. Today we have a great opportunity to express our innate sense of fraternity, to be Good Samaritans who bear the pain of other people's troubles rather than fomenting greater hatred and resentment" (Fratelli Tutti # 77).

Fr. Hernán, S.J.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

December 20: Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16
Psalms 89:2-5, 27, 29
Romans 16:25-27

December 27: The Holy Family (Feast)

Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14
Psalms 128:1-5
Colossians 3:12-21



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 YEARS

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 this **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! Gifts are asked to be returned by Tuesday, December 22, 2020.

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** 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.

COLLECTIONS – December 12/13: \$ 6,111; Christmas Flowers: \$1,130. Thank you for your continued 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

MARCH FOR LIFE - Join the March for Life on January 29th, 2021. Buses will depart St. Charles School (200 Penn Ave.) Coachways bus departs at 7:00am. 28 people per bus (50% capacity). There will be 2 buses. Coachways will supply mask & hand sanitizer to everyone. Cost will be \$55 per person, which includes coffee, snack and tip for driver. Buses will depart Washington, DC at 3:30pm. For more information or to reserve your seat please contact Angela DiBenedetto.