



Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ December 24, 2017



The child to be born will be called Holy, the Son of God. ~Luke 1:35

Weekly Mass Intentions



Saturday – December 23 ~Christmas Eve~

8:00am - † Andrew & Ralph Frulio
5:00pm- † Jim & Gene Obermayer
7:30pm- † Parish Community Intentions

Offered by: Frulio Family
Offered by: Family

Sunday – December 24 ~Christmas Day~

8:30am- † Wanda Saldaña
10:00am- † Dolores Elizabeth Zukowski
4:00pm- † Patricia & Susan May
& Andrew Buckley
11:30am- † Parish Community Intentions
1:30pm- † Parish Community Intentions
6:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

Offered by: Santos Family
Offered by: Garay Family
Offered by: Barbara Miscione

Monday – December 25

10:00am- † Grace & Andrew Frulio

Offered by: Frulio Family

Tuesday – December 26

8:00am - † Joseph Catuagno ~Anniversary~

Offered by: daughter,
Christine Labollita

12:05pm- † NO MASS

Wednesday – December 27

8:00am ~Special Intentions of Duanna Kempton
12:05pm- † Dominick Negri ~Birthday in Heaven~

Offered by: daughter, Rose

Thursday – December 28

8:00am- † Elizabeth & Stephen Federick
12:05pm- † Delfina Muñoz

Offered by: Brian Federick
Offered by: Lydia Palafox

Friday – December 29

8:00am- † Edward Federick
12:05pm- † Susan Avilla ~Anniversary~

Offered by: Brian Federick
Offered by: Family

Saturday – December 30

8:00am- ~ Christmas Blessings for ALL
Parishioners of O.L. Mt Carmel Parish
5:00pm- ~ Birthday Blessings for Nancy Velez

By: Cinderella Wonsewitz
By: OLMC Parish Ministry

Sunday – December 31 ~New Year's Eve~

8:30am- † Isabel Maria Quiñones
10:00am- † Maximo Pascua

Offered by: daughter, Marta
By: Crescencia Pascua

Weekly Memorials

Bread & Wine
Tabernacle Candle
Memorial Candle



~ †
~ † **Frank McLaren**
Offered by: Angie McLaren
~ †

Liturgical Minster's Schedule JANUARY 2018

Saturday 5:00 PM

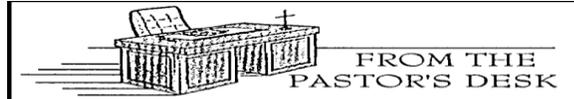
Lector: Linda Graves & Lindford Smith (*carry Gospel Book*)
E. M.: Lindford Smith, Peg & Tom Ventrudo / *Sub:* Cinderella Wonsewitz

Sunday 8:30 AM

Lector: Joan Knighton & Delemeter Carey (*carry Gospel Book*) / *Sub:* Johnathan Codipilly
E.M.: Delmeter Carey, Joan Fortunato & MaryAnn Ugboode / *Sub:* Diane Carbonaro

Sunday 10:00 AM

Lector: Thelma Washington (*carry Gospel Book*)
E.M.: Alexis Crowdell, Beverly Marryshow & Dianne Murphy / *Sub:* Crescencia Pascua



**"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those
whom he favors!"**

Luke 2:14

After a long spiritual preparation and long journey, we are ready to celebrate Christmas, a season of joy, happiness and peace. The whole liturgy, songs, flowers and above all the Scripture readings speak of the One whom is the Word, made flesh, and the cause of our joy and salvation.

The birth of Christ in history, two thousand years ago, leads us to meditate on Christ who is hopefully born in each of the hearts of those who believe in Him. God through the centuries is manifested in its creation and the old covenant; now in the fullness of time Christ is manifested in a whole new way: God is with us. The immense love of God for men and women of good will made it possible two thousand years ago and make it possible today since we celebrate the most precious gift that is his coming in our human flesh.

Glory to God in the highest!

Let us celebrate Christmas with the same joy that was celebrated back in the time that the Prophet Isaiah exhorted his people: It was a time of darkness and despair. People seemed to walk in darkness. But the sadness of people from yesterday and today is changed into joy since Isaiah prophesied that people will see a great light, a radiant light that brings joy. Christmas is the same splendorous light that appears to us in the Child that Mary and Joseph welcomed in their lap. This is the light of the Incarnate God, the Emmanuel that the shepherds were hurrying to praise. The joy of the prophet is now our joy *because "a child is born to us, a son is given us."* *"And he will be called a "Wonderful Counselor," "Mighty God," "Everlasting Father" and a "Prince of " Peace"*

St. Paul in his letter to Titus tells us that Jesus came to our world by the great generosity of the love God has shown to us. And such happiness and joy is our own. The Gospel of Luke tells us that the shepherds went immediately to Bethlehem to see the boy the angels announced to them.

With the same promptness of shepherds and with the humility of Joseph and Mary let us welcome Jesus in our hearts that has become a child again to everyone who is close to us.

Merry Christmas. Feliz Navidad.

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 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38 (11)

December 31: Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Colossians 3:12-21
Luke 2:22-40



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE – Sunday, December 24th (Christmas Eve) at 8:30am, 10:00am and 4:00pm; Monday, December 25th (Christmas Day) at 10:00am; Sunday, December 31st (New Year's Eve) at 8:30am and 10:00am; Monday, January 1st (New Year's Day) at 10:00am. **Please note:** The Rectory Office will be closed on both Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th. Regular hours will resume on Wednesday, December 27th.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING - Everyone knows that Christmas is a time of gift-giving. The meaningfulness of a gift is not dependent upon the amount spent but on the heart given. The greatest gift ever given is the greatest heart ever given: God sent the only Son to dwell among us. Jesus came among us as God's gift of Salvation to us. As a gift of salvation, Jesus is the incarnation of God's loving presence among us. This gift cost us no money. It does cost us our own life: a heart turned to God. As you are "making your list and checking it twice" for those you will remember at Christmas, might I so humbly ask that you please don't forget your church. The parish relies on your end-of-the-year donations to help us meet our ever-growing financial obligations for our parish. We truly appreciate your generosity and support.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP - All new families and individuals are welcome to our parish. We request that you register in the rectory when you move into our community so we can be of service to you. Our parish family invites all of its members to participate fully in our spiritual and social life. The priests and ministers are here to serve your needs, to share your joy and to help lighten your burdens. We take seriously the words of Jesus: "Love one another, as I loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34)

FEAST OF THREE KINGS (The Solemnity of the Epiphany) - On Sunday, January 7th, 2018, Join your parish family, invite friends and neighbors, and come celebrate the Epiphany of Jesus on the great feast of the church year. There will be a distribution of toys for children 14 years of age and younger in the school gym from 1pm to 3pm that same day.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM - There will be no Religious Education classes from December 23rd thru January 7th. Classes resume January 10th.

EDUCATION BASED FAITH – Our school offers an education based on faith and a focus towards a high quality education. The admissions application for 2018-2019 is now open for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel-St. Benedicta School. If you are interested in offering a Catholic education to your child, we invite you visit us. For more information visit olmcsb.org or call 718-981-5131.

BATHROOM USE - It can be used before or after Mass. Only use the bathroom during Mass if absolutely necessary. In particular, no one should be going to the toilet between the Offertory and the end of Mass (while we are kneeling in worship). Kneel in your pew and adore Jesus who has just made His home in you in Holy Communion. The minutes after we receive Holy Communion are the most sacred moments of our life on earth – to be treasured and prayed. Please do not flush anything but toilet paper and children should not be allowed to go unattended and. Thank you for your compassion and understanding.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Cross Road Foundation is in need of volunteers in all areas of their prolife ministry, including advising clients, assisting in their "Mommy Store", picking up donations and preparing mailings. Volunteer weekly, monthly or on an occasional basis. For more information call: Kimberly Carbonaro at 718-556-3474 or email crossroad15@verizon.net.

NIGHT AT THE RACES - Save the date because you won't want to miss the Night at the Races on Saturday, January 27th at 5pm Mass in the Parish Hall of St. Roch's Parish (602 Port Richmond Ave.) Food, horse racing, and lots of fun! Come alone or make a table of family and friends (adults only). For more information contact St. Roch's rectory at 718-442-4755.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DePAUL GIVES BACK - Our parish could share in the profits. For each car, truck or van, running or not that is donated the Society will give back to our church \$75/\$200 per vehicle. Maybe you don't have a vehicle, but a family member, friend or neighbor has an old or neglected vehicle in their driveway that they would like to dispose of. Call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at 718 491-2525.

COLLECTIONS: December 17: \$4,454; Retired Priests: \$806. *Thank you for your continued generosity!*

MERRY CHRISTMAS - *The Priests and Office Staff wish to extend their Christmas greetings to all parishioners. May the gift of Jesus fill your hearts and homes with joy and peace this Christmas Season. A warm welcome to all who have come to worship with us this Christmas. Christmas presents all of us with the opportunity to renew friendships, to celebrate with family and to give thanks to our God who has blessed us so richly. Welcome Home! Merry Christmas!*