the catholic community of OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Volume 10, Issue 50: December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent



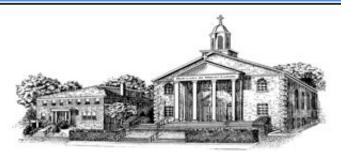
Christmas Masses

Sunday, December 24, 2023 (Christmas Eve)

Mass Times – 4 PM, 6 PM, 12 MIDNIGHT (Prelude Concert begins at 11:30 PM)

Monday, December 25, 2023 (Christmas Day)

Mass Times – 10 AM & 12 NOON



Masses

Daily

Monday - Saturday 8:30 AM

Weekends

Saturday 5:00 PM Sunday 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 NOON

Holy Days

As announced.

Sacraments

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 4:00 – 4:30 PM, or by appointment. Please call the Church Office to arrange an appointment.

The Sacrament of Baptism

The second Sunday of each month, except during Lent. Please arrange for Baptism at least two months in advance.

The Sacrament of Marriage

Please make an appointment with a priest or deacon at least one year in advance.

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

Please call the Church Office to request a visit.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Mission Statement

"We are the Roman Catholic Community of Our Lady of Mount Carmel based in Tenafly, New Jersey. Our mission is the promotion of the holiness of life through the celebration of the Sacraments, the sharing of the Gospel and the promotion of Catholic values.

We offer pastoral care through ministries that provide education, healing, spiritual growth and social outreach in the Carmelite tradition."



"No matter who you are, no matter what you've done, no matter where you're from, no matter where you're going, no matter how good or bad things seem, you are always welcome."

Staff Directory

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TODAY'S GOSPEL MESSAGE

Sunday, December 10th Mark 1:1-8

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. . .And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Reflection

"Perhaps our task this Advent is to prepare our hearts for the Lord by removing those obstacles that can lead us to doubt. Perhaps making a straight path is as simple as opening our hearts to the possibility that God has an answer to all our doubts. Perhaps God's power, comfort, and forgiveness, are just searching for a clear path into us."

SOURCE: Pastoral Patterns, Winter 2023-2024



DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26

Tuesday Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:39-47

Our Lady of Guadalupe (Feast) – Today's feast commemorates the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin in 1531 at Guadalupe to Juan Diego. She left her image on a cloak that is preserved in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Wednesday Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30

<u>Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr (Memorial)</u> – Lucy was martyred in the persecution of Emperor Diocletian. During the Middle Ages, people suffering from eye trouble began invoking Lucy's aid because her name is derived from the Latin word for 'light' (lux).

Thursday Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15

Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church (Memorial)/Carmelite Feast Day – Born into poverty, John entered the Carmelites and was ordained. With St. Teresa of Avila, he helped reform his order and create the reformed (Discalced) Carmelites. But his reforms were opposed, and he was imprisoned for almost a year. His writings are both classics of spirituality and of Spanish literature. John pictured the spiritual life as a journey of the soul to divine union.

Friday Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19

Saturday Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

SOURCE: Living With Christ, December 2023





Fr. Richard, OLMC Staff, and the Parish Advisory Board invite you to celebrate Christmas at Carmel!

Check out the pages in this bulletin for ways to celebrate the beautiful seasons of Advent and Christmas here at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church!

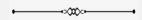
Giving Tree Service Day

Share the Warmth, Spread the Love Simbang Gabi

Advent Parish Penance Service Christmas Eve Prelude Concert Christmas Masses



MASSES FOR THE WEEK



MONDAY, DECEMBER 11th

8:30 Ruth Finn Oshin Requested by The Balakian Family

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12th

8:30 June Olsen Requested by Rose Marie Preolo

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13th

8:30 John J. Williams Requested by The Balakian Family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14th

8:30 Dave Wall Requested by The Cogan Family

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15th

8:30 Laurie McCartney Requested by Fred & Jackie Devanna

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16th

8:30 Patrick Yao, Sr. Requested by The Cua Family

5:00 Thomas M. Stedina Requested by The Stiefel Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th

8:00 Mary Crowley Requested by The Crowley Family

10:00 Michael Perlman Requested by The Miglietta Family and Parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

12:00 Lorraine Furlong & Annie May Furlong Requested by Josephine Carolan



Let us pray for the needs of the following individuals:

Carmelo Abbruzzesi Dikeledi Machaka Lorna Asuncion Catherine Marchiona Brian Bingman Aria Marrero Angie Bracconeri June Miller Dave Clemens David Mobley Tom Cooke Sr. Pat Coyle Joseph Pae Sereno Danese Anastasia Pavur Denise de Almeida Meredith Sajdak

James Dockery John Salvatore Vita Santulli Rachel Durso

Corazon E. Evora

Deacon Lex Ferrauiola Cvnthia Fineza

Terri Giovannone Rose Guillen Michael Kashmer Luca Kashmer Floridis

Kellish Family Evan G. Kellish Adam Kokosinski Charles Machaka

Aaron Monteagudo

Eufrocina Sarreal Paredes Jason Scalora Kathleen Selinka Dragon

Margaret Sullivan Roger Sullivan Betty Supple Jocelyn Talla Rosario Ugarte Diana Valencia Sara Van Horne

THE BREAD AND WINE

This week the Bread and Wine are in memory of Mary Crowley requested by The Crowley Family.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP

This week the Sanctuary Lamp is in memory of Michael Perlman.

REST IN PEACE

Please remember in your prayers all the military men and women who have died this week.

Mass Schedule – December 23-24 & Christmas Masses

Regular Weekend Masses (Dec. 23-24) 5 PM, 8 AM & 10 AM There is no 12 NOON Mass on December 24 Christmas Eve Masses (Dec. 24) 4 PM, 6 PM, & 12 MIDNIGHT Prelude concert begins at 11:30 PM Christmas Day Masses (Dec. 25) 10 AM & 12 NOON

"During the four week Advent season that begins the Church year we prepare for the coming of Jesus by remembering his birth in Bethlehem (past), anticipating his coming in glory (future) and by celebrating his coming to us in word and sacrament (present). The Church has appointed scriptures for Advent that tell of God's coming in Christ. The second and third Sundays focus on the coming of Christ today."

SOURCE:

Advent: He is Coming was written by Steve Mueller, © Copyright 2017 by All Saints Press, St. Louis, MO

Advent Parish Penance Service

St. Thérèse of Lisieux Church 120 Monroe Avenue, Cresskill Monday, December 18th at 7 PM

Everyone is invited.



All gifts are due back to OLMC Church THIS WEEKEND.

Please be sure gifts are wrapped with the ORIGINAL GIFT TAG taped to the OUTSIDE of the package.



Thank you to all who so generously participated in our parish's Giving Tree. May the joy you brought to others be returned to you!



Tuesday, December 12th 9:15 AM & 7:30 PM Conference Room

We're reading . . .

MORNING GROUP

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

EVENING GROUP

The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride

OLMC Book Club is for every type of reader! New members welcome!

Contact Elliot Guerra at <u>guerra@academyolmc.org</u> or Mary Ann at the Church Office at 201-568-0545.

Family Promise Walk-in Dinner

The OLMC community joins together to feed Bergen County's most vulnerable citizens through the Family Promise Walk-in Dinner Program. Join us in OLMC's kitchen for about an hour and a half following the 8 AM Mass this Sunday, December 10th to prepare for the Walk-in Dinner to be held on Monday, December 11th. Families of all ages can help! Volunteers must bring a hat or head wrap to wear. Please see Elliot Guerra in OLMC's kitchen if interested in helping in some way.

"Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem."

—Pope Francis



The Advent wreath dates back to ancient celebrations of the winter solstice—that time in the year when the sun reaches its southern-most point and the days are the darkest. Because they longed for the return of the sun's light and life, the ancients stopped all usual activity, sacrificed the use of their wagon wheels and hung them up, decorated with lights and greens in their celebration halls. There they awaited the return of their sun god, thinking of the warmth and life he brought.

As Christians, we use the same meaningful custom to anticipate the feast of light and life—the nativity of the Savior. We add one light on the wreath for each Sunday in Advent. We think of the darkness after Adam's sin and watch the growing hope and light as the prophets and the Virgin Mary help us prepare for His saving birth.



What is Simbang Gabi? Simbang Gabi is 'The Mass Before the Rooster Crows' celebrated in the Filipino Christmas tradition. See the invitation above. All are invited!



Share The Warmth, Spread The Love

The Parish Advisory Board is sponsoring a collection of socks, hats, gloves, and scarves for adults and children. The Palumbo family, parishioners of OLMC, will be distributing the items on Christmas Eve at The Hoboken Shelter. Donations should be placed in the bin located in OLMC's elevator lobby. **Donations are due** by **December 17**th. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.



Cathedral Basilica Concert Series & Musical Drama

All of the following performances will be held at Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, 89 Ridge Street, Newark.

An Advent Carol – Sunday, December 10th at 4 PM. A musical drama celebrating the Advent journey, this play brings a message of hope and healing and takes the audience on a journey from the Annunciation to the Flight into Egypt. Free-will Offering. Families are welcome! Please RSVP by calling 973-484-4600

<u>The 52nd Candlelight Carol Sing</u> – Thursday, December 13th. The ambiance of candlelight and seasonal décor, along with the Cathedral Choir, organ, instrumentalists and thousands of participants, combine to create an event not to be missed. No admission charge.

The Messiah by George Frederick Handel – Sunday, December 17th. The New Jersey Symphony – Nicholas McGegan, Conductor; Montclair State University Singers – Heather J. Buchanan, Director. Ticket prices are \$89/\$65/\$45/\$25. Tickets are required. To purchase tickets, visit njsymphony.org/messiah or call 1.800.255-3476.



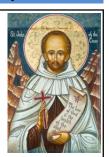
"I will hear what God proclaims; the LORD – for he proclaims peace to his people."

Psalm 85:9

SAINT PROFILE

Saint John of the Cross

Carmelite Feast Day December 14



St. John of the Cross is a saint because his life was a heroic effort to live up to his name: "of the Cross." The folly of the cross came to full realization in time. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me" (Mark 8:34b) is the story of John's life. The Paschal Mystery—through death to life—strongly marks John as reformer, mystic-poet, and theologian-priest.

Ordained a Carmelite priest in 1567 at age 25, John met Teresa of Avila and like her, vowed himself to the primitive Rule of the Carmelites. As partner with Teresa and in his own right, John engaged in the work of reform, and came to experience the price of reform: increasing opposition, misunderstanding, persecution, and imprisonment. He came to know the cross acutely—to experience the dying of Jesus—as he sat month after month in his dark, damp, narrow cell with only his God.

In this dying of imprisonment John came to life, uttering poetry. In the darkness of the dungeon, John's spirit came into the Light. There are many mystics, many poets; John is unique as mystic-poet, expressing in his prison-cross the ecstasy of mystical union with God in the *Spiritual Canticle*.

As agony leads to ecstasy, so John had his *Ascent to Mt. Carmel*, as he named it in his prose masterpiece. As man-Christian-Carmelite, he experienced in himself this purifying ascent; as spiritual director, he sensed it in others; as psychologist-theologian, he described and analyzed it in his prose writings. His prose works are outstanding in underscoring the cost of discipleship, the path of union with God: rigorous discipline, abandonment, purification. Uniquely and strongly John underlines the gospel paradox: The cross leads to resurrection, agony to ecstasy, darkness to light, abandonment to possession, denial to self to union with God. If you want to save your life, you must lose it. John is truly "of the Cross." He died at 49—a short but full life.

Reflection:

In his life and writings, John of the Cross has a crucial word for us today. We tend to be rich, soft, comfortable. We shrink even from words life *self-denial*, *mortification*, *purification*, *asceticism*, *discipline*. We run from the cross. John's message—like the gospel—is loud and clear: Don't—if you really want to live!

Saint John of the Cross is the patron saint of: Mystics



Continuous Religious Instruction For The Faith Development Of Your Child

The Religious Education Program is a curriculum of **continuous** religious instruction for students. Attendance at each grade level is important in order to establish a firm foundation in the faith, build upon it at each grade level, and prepare for the Sacraments. Visit our website www.olmc.us, click on 'LEARN', then 'Religious Education' to register.



Religious Education Classes Are In Session!

Class Schedule

Sunday, December 10th (8:45-9:55 AM) Tuesday, December 12th (3:30-4:45 PM) Sunday, December 17th (8:45-9:55 AM) Tuesday, December 19th (3:30-4:45 PM)



Sacrament of Confirmation

Are you registered? If your child is in ninth grade and intends to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this school year, please be sure to register for this sacrament. Registration can be done online at www.olmc.us. Go to 'SACRAMENTS' and 'Confirmation.'

CONFIRMATION SESSION This SUNDAY, December 10th 9:00 A.M. in the Titus Room

Please enter the building via the south parking lot (main Academy entrance/Clinton Avenue) and take the stairs down to the Titus Room.

Please contact Elliot Guerra with any questions or concerns at guerra@academyolmc.org.

Celebrating the Season of Advent as a Family!

People hoped and waited for so long for Jesus to come and bring light to the world! Parents can share stories about the ways they prepared and how they felt as they waited for their children to be born. Older siblings can share stories of waiting for younger siblings.

Let us pray: God, our Father, we pray as a family for your love and blessing. Help us to prepare our hearts for your Son Jesus. Help us to show our love for each other and for you. Bless and watch over us and all for whom we pray who are in need of our prayers. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sacrament of First Reconciliation

Children in second grade are getting ready to prepare to receive the sacrament of First Reconciliation. Be sure your child is registered for this sacrament! Please continue to work with your child on the workbook that you received at last month's First Reconciliation Parent Meeting.

The celebration of First Reconciliation will take place on Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 11 AM for children whose last name begins with A-L and at 1:30 PM for children whose last name begins with M-Z.

If you have any questions, please contact the Religious Education Office at 201-871-4662 or reled@olmc.us.



Let us introduce you to the Academy staff and the programs we have to offer. Visit our Web site at www.academyolmc.org.

Experience the OLMC Difference!

The Academy of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is an educational community with roots in the Roman Catholic faith that teaches gospel values. Within our Carmelite tradition we are dedicated to helping students see God in themselves, in each other and in the world around them. We strive to educate whole person-intellectually, spiritually, physically, socially and emotionallywhile building a strong foundation of ethical and moral ideals.



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Hey, Warrior Nation! Mark your calendars!

On December 12th the OLMC Warriors take over the court during halftime of the Seton Hall Pirates vs. Monmouth University Hawks Men's Basketball Game at 6:30 PM!

> Tickets are \$30. Please make check payable to "OLMC Athletics."

Family Advent Activity: This past week we celebrated the feast of Saint Nicholas. Listen to a story about the legendary gift giver. He is well known as the beloved saint of children and giftgiving. Make or buy a small, thoughtful gift for someone you know. Light the second purple candle on your Advent wreath. Today's candle is the

candle of PEACE. It represents the peace that God has given through His Son, Jesus Christ and the preparation for the Christ Child.





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OFFICE OF CONCERN FOOD PANTRY AT ST. CECILIA CHURCH

For over 40 years, the volunteers at the **Office of Concern Food Pantry** have been assisting families in Bergen County with weekly supplemental food, serving families living below the federal poverty level. **The monthly collection of non-perishable items is <u>THIS WEEKEND</u>.** Please place donations in OLMC's elevator lobby. Thank you for your continued generous support.



CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to make a donation to help with the cost of flowers that will decorate our church for Christmas, please fill out the form below. Donations may be made in memory of a loved one or for a special intention. Checks should be made payable to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and can be placed in the collection box or returned to the Church Office.

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Bernard J. Fasciano

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