the catholic community of OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Volume 10, Issue 52: December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent



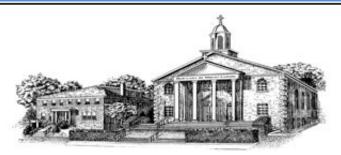
Christmas Masses

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 24th
Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you". . . Then the angel said to her. . . "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.". . . Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

Reflection

"It is Mary's faith and trust in the Lord that makes the incarnation possible. It is our faith and trust in God that continues to make Jesus' incarnation possible in today's world."

SOURCE: Pastoral Patterns, Winter 2023-2024



DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday Vigil—Isaiah 62:1-5;Acts 13:16-17,22-25;Matthew 1:1-25

Midnight—Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

Monday Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

Tuesday Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22

<u>Saint Stephen, The First Martyr (Feast)</u> – Stephen is the first-named among the seven deacons chosen by the twelve apostles to minister to Greek-speaking Christians in Jerusalem. He is the first recorded martyr of the New Testament and patron saint of deacons.

Wednesday 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a & 2-8

<u>Saint John. Apostle and Evangelist (Feast)</u> – Like Peter, John and his brother James (the sons of Zebedee) were called from their fishing business to follow Jesus. John has been traditionally identified as the author of the fourth gospel, the Book of Revelation, the three letters that bear his name, and as the "Beloved Disciple."

Thursday 1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18

<u>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs (Feast)</u> – Today's feast commemorates the male children slain instead of Jesus by King Herod in his desire to eliminate the newborn king.

Friday 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35

Saturday 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40





to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

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

Join Us For Christmas Mass

Join us as we celebrate the joy of the Christmas season and the gift of Christ in our lives!

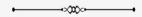
Sunday, December 24, 2023 (Christmas Eve)

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 FOR THE WEEK



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th

Parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel 6^{PM} Parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

 12^{AM} Parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25th

Parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel 12^{NOON} Parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26th

8:30 Bill Connolly Requested by The Moscone Family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27th

8:30 Thomas Hanna Requested by Noreen Russell

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28th

8:30 Patricia Lefevere Requested by Pat & Rich White

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29th

8:30 Celia Brown Requested by The Mora Family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30th

8:30 Jane Buniva Requested by Barry, Kim, & Jen

5:00 Martino & Nicolina Tarabocchia Requested by Nick & Sandy Hroncich

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31st

8:00 Monica Schrank Requested by Her Family

10:00 Mary Del Priore Requested by Her Family

and Parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

12:00 R. Neal Hall Requested by His Family



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 Aaron Monteagudo Sr. Pat Covle

Joseph Pae Sereno Danese Anastasia Pavur Denise de Almeida Meredith Saidak James Dockery John Salvatore Vita Santulli Rachel Durso Corazon E. Evora

Eufrocina Sarreal Paredes

Deacon Lex Ferrauiola Jason Scalora

Terri Giovannone Rose Guillen Michael Kashmer Luca Kashmer Floridis

Kellish Family Evan G. Kellish Adam Kokosinski

Cynthia Fineza

Kathleen Selinka Dragon Margaret Sullivan Roger Sullivan Betty Supple Jocelyn Talla Rosario Ugarte

Diana Valencia

Sara Van Horne

Charles Machaka

THE BREAD AND WINE

This week the Bread and Wine are in thanksgiving requested by The Tonogbonua-Custer Family.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP

This week the Sanctuary Lamp is for All The Children requested by The Neill & Forgrave Families and The Stoever & Mongiello Families.

REST IN PEACE

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

"...through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever."

Romans 16:27

"The Advent mystery is the beginning of the end of all in us that is not yet Christ."

—Thomas Merton



"The wait is over. This Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The Catholic Church has designated the four weeks preceding Christmas as Advent, a time to prepare the way of the Lord for His coming as our King and Savior.

By participating in various time-honored traditions, such as making Jesse trees or putting on a Christmas play at home, Catholic families can engage more fruitfully in the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

The Church primarily celebrates Christmas from Christmas Day until the Solemnity of the Epiphany, which commemorates the manifestation of Christ as the Savior of the whole world (cf. Mt. 2:1-12). The Church has also traditionally celebrated Christmas for 40 days, culminating on the Feast of the Presentation (Feb. 2). During this time, the birth of Christ is celebrated as one continuous festival. It is just as important to celebrate during the Christmas season as it is to prepare for Christ during Advent."

SOURCE: www.catholiceducation.org



MEN'S CORNERSTONE

Men's Cornerstone brings together men of five local parishes who share with each other their faith and challenges around a theme. These meetings provide prayer, friendship and support. The next meeting date is Wednesday, January 17th at St. Mary's Church, 20 Legion Place, Closter at 7 PM. We will be discussing the book "The Screwtape Letters" by C. S. Lewis. For info, please call Deacon Michael Giuliano at 201-983-1591.



The following individuals were recently baptized at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church.

Emily Alicia George Sophia Ruiz Cano Zane Woods



May the Lord bless you and keep you in His care.



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

We're reading . . .

The Fisherman's Tomb: The True Story of the Vatican's Secret Search by John O'Neill

In 1939, a team of workers beneath the Vatican unearthed an early Christian grave. This surprising discovery launched a secret quest that would last decades—a quest to discover the long-lost burial place of the Apostle Peter. From earliest times, Christian tradition held that Peter—a lowly fisherman from Galilee, whom Christ made leader of his Church—was executed in Rome by Emperor Nero and buried on Vatican Hill. But his tomb had been lost to history. Now, funded anonymously by a wealthy American, a small army of workers embarked on the dig of a lifetime.

New Members Welcome!

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

"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 fourth Sunday focuses on the coming of Christ in history as a child born in Bethlehem."

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

"Advent is the season for remembering the closeness of God who came down to dwell in our midst."

—Pope Francis

Dear God, help us always to remember the reason that we wait, each year, in great anticipation for Christmas – not for presents but for the greatest gift of all, your Son.

Holy Spirit, guide the choices we make as Christmas nears. Through all we say and do, let us be evangelists who live and model the gospel way of life that Jesus taught when he walked this earth.

Father in heaven, we offer thanks to you for the sign that Christmas is to the world - a sign that God is with us all our days, in every age and time.

Come Lord Jesus. Through our Advent prayer, our lives and our hearts are prepared to welcome you. Be with us, for we are your people, and you are our God.





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"Faith Lights Our Way

There is an urgent need . . . to see once again that faith is a light, for once the flame of faith dies out, all other lights begin to dim. The light of faith is unique, since it is capable of illuminating every aspect of human existence. For a light to be this powerful, it cannot come from ourselves; it must come from a more primordial source: in a word, it must come from God. Faith is born of an encounter with the living God who calls us and reveals his love, a love which precedes us and upon which we can lean for security and for building our lives. Transformed by this love, we gain fresh vision, new eyes to see; we realize that it contains a great promise of fulfillment, and that a vision of the future opens up before us. received from God as a supernatural gift, becomes a light for our way, guiding our journey through time."

SOURCE:

Pope Francis Speaks to Our Hearts: Words of Challenge and Hope. Frederick: The Word Among Us Press, 2013. Print.

"The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas.

The Christmas Manger . . .

From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Luke 21:34-36). The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223. The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time. When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member."

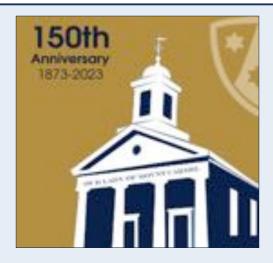
SOURCE: www.usccb.org

Students in grades 3 through 7 are invited to join OLMC's Altar Server Ministry!



Name			
Phone _			
Parent E	mail		
Mass Pre	eference:		
5 PM	8 AM	10 AM	12 NOON
	1	_	and scheduling is e return this form

to the Religious Education Office.



OLMC Celebrates 150 Years!

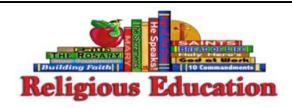
Welcome to Children's Liturgy of the Word and Coffee & Conversation!



Children's Liturgy of the Word is being offered to children in grades K–5 during the 10 A.M. Mass on Sunday, January 21st.



All are invited for Coffee & Conversation hosted by OLMC Academy to be held in the cafeteria following the 10 A.M. Mass on Sunday, January 21st. Come and take a tour of the Academy and see what ministries OLMC Church has to offer!



Class Schedule

Sunday, December 24th (NO CLASS)
Tuesday, December 26th (NO CLASS)
Sunday, December 31st (NO CLASS)
Tuesday, January 2nd (3:30-4:45 PM)

Symbolism of the Advent Wreath

The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ. The circle of the wreath symbolizes

the eternity of God's love for us. A tradition is that each of the four candles represents one thousand years, a total of four thousand years from Adam and Eve until Christ's birth.



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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 SUNDAY, January 7th 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.

Family Advent Activity

Today's candle is the candle of LOVE. It represents the love that was sent from God through His son, Jesus Christ. On this Fourth Sunday of Advent we can ask God to increase within us a desire to do His will. Some things may be difficult or confusing, but Jesus opens doors for us that seem difficult to open. As a family, pray about ways to overcome things that may be difficult for you. Light the fourth Advent candle and consider ways you can bring peace and love to others.

* * *

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God (1 John 4:7).

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 the whole person–intellectually, spiritually, physically, socially and emotionally—while building a strong foundation of ethical and moral ideals.



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"December is here and we find ourselves deep in the spirit of Christmas. As a Catholic school we have the privilege to enter this season with an attitude of prayer and deep reverence. Take time to breathe in and soak in some spiritual blessings this week. May God surround you and your families with much peace, love, and joy."

—Barbara Verdonck, Principal



Family Advent Activity: Read the nativity story in the Bible together as a family. Come, Lord Jesus, come!



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"Advent invites us to a commitment to vigilance, looking beyond ourselves, expanding our mind and heart in order to open ourselves up to the needs of people, of brothers and sisters, and to the desire for a new world."

—Pope Francis



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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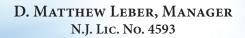
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