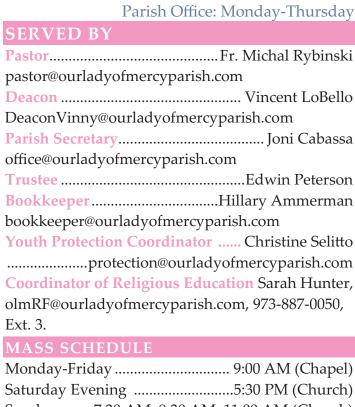
# **OUR LADY OF MERCY**

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Parish Office: Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM-3:00PM



Monday-Friday	9:00 AM (Chapel)
Saturday Evening	5:30 PM (Church)
Sunday 7:30 AM, 9:30	AM, 11:00 AM (Church)
MINISTRIES	

Altar Linens ...... Carol Hunter olm Altar Linens @our lady of mer cyparish. comAltar Rosary Society ......Marlene Ferrence rosary@ourladyofmercyparish.com Altar Servers ......Fr. Michal Rybinski Caring and Sharing ...... Majella LoBello DeaconVinny@ourladyofmercyparish.com Cleaning Ministry Patti Cobane, Anne Roda-Farrell cleaning@ourladyofmercyparish.com Extraordinary Ministers Kathy Dittrick, Marilyn Kuehner, olmEM@ourladyofmercyparish.com Food pantry ...... Carol Hunter olmAltarLinens@ourladyofmercyparish.com Garden Ministry Phyllis Stec & Annette Putts garden@ourladyofmercyparish.com Health Ministry Marlene Peterson & Kathy Dittrick

#### CONFESSION

Mondays 7:00-8:00 PM (Chapel) Saturdays5:00-5:30 PM (Church)

First Fridays...... 8:15-8:50 AM (Chapel) or by appointment

# **DEVOTIONS**

#### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Chapel)

- Monday 7:00-8:00 PM
- Friday 9:30-10:00 AM (Divine Mercy Devotion)
- First Thursday 9:30-10:00 AM
- First Friday 9:30 AM 12:00 noon

#### Rosary

- Monday-Friday 8:30 AM (Chapel)
- Saturday 5:10 PM (Church)
- Sunday 7:00 AM (Church)

# Miraculous Medal Novena

Wednesday after 9:00 AM Mass

# **Devotion to St. Joseph**

• First Wednesday after the 9:00 AM

olmHealthMinistry@ourladyofmercyparish.com	
Homebound ministry Deacon Vincent LoBello	
DeaconVinny@ourladyofmercyparish.com	
Hospitality MinistryDan Mihalko	
hospitality@ourladyofmercyparish.com	
Ministers of the WordKim Gigantino,	
lectors@ourladyofmercyparish.com	
Music Ministry Tomasz Halat	
music@ourladyofmercyparish.com	
Scripture GroupSteve Freire	
bible@ourladyofmercyparish.com	
Ushers	
ushers@ourladyofmercyparish.com	
Walking with Moms in NeedKaren Carbonello	
moms@ourladyofmercyparish.com	

DECEMBER 14, 2025 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# MASS INTENTIONS

#### Saturday, December 13

5:30 PM for the protection of the unborn and their mothers; † Ann and Pat Dupay

# Third Sunday of Advent, December 14

7:30 AM the living and deceased members of the Palumbo and Giblock Family; † Joseph Simone

9:30 AM Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

11:00 AM † Audrey Graziano; † Janina Radgowska; † John Lenox (4<sup>th</sup> Ann.); † Emanuela Cappellini

#### Monday, December 15

6:15 AM special intention of Matthew, Wiesław and Douglas; † Roland Hess; † Joseph Ward

9:00 AM † Janina Radgowska; † Robert Fichot Sr.; † Anthony Cirelli; † Richard Zetterlund

#### Tuesday, December 16

6:15 AM special intention of Matthew, Wiesław and Douglas; † Joseph Rubacky (10th Ann.)

9:00 AM Dominic Carrino

#### Wednesday, December 17

6:15 AM special intention of Matthew, Wiesław and Douglas

9:00 AM

#### Thursday, December 18

6:15 AM special intention of Matthew, Wiesław and Douglas

9:00 AM † Emma Cappellini; † John Cisternino

# Friday, December 19

6:15 AM special intention of Matthew, Wiesław and Douglas;

9:00 AM † Carol Stanziale

# Saturday, December 20

6:15 AM special intention of Matthew, Wiesław and Douglas

5:30 PM for the protection of the unborn and their mothers; † Terry Garruto (13<sup>th</sup> Ann.); † Zbigniew Piotrowski

### Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21

7:30 AM † Robert, Steven and Patti Thompson; † Bob Cobane; † Joseph P. Mahig

9:30 AM Parishioners of OLM; † Muriel O'Connell; healing of Scott Loeffler

11:00 AM for the protection of the unborn and their mothers; † Isabelo Liscano; † Richard and Joan Hayward

# PRAYER LIST

Please pray for: Nick Agro, Nancy Bakalis, Michael Bota, Giuseppa Casarrubea, Beverly & Blaine Fresco, Arlene & Fred Gentile, Generoso Giesullo, Marla Giordino, Bertha Gonzalez, Kevin Goodsir, Cristopher Gruno, Emil Herkert, Georgjean Huegler, Anthony LaFerrara, Frank LaMura, Victor & Ruth Madill, Ann Morpeth, Cathy N., Anne Marie Nappi, John O'Connor, Michael O'Connor, John & Marie O'Mullan, Philip Patavia, Anna Quagliato, Jaxson Rivera, Bob Roberts, Agnes Ryan, Lisa R, Eileen Scheibner, Theresa Seleski, Judythe Swift, Janice Trocino, Belarmino Viegas, Rick Yarem.

# **SANCTUARY CANDLE**

# The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week:

Church: in memory of Emma Cappellini Chapel: in memory of Terry Garruto (13<sup>th</sup> Ann.)

# COLLECTION

# THIS WEEK AT OLM

# Sunday, December 14

- 10:00 AM: Grades 1-8 only

- 1:00-8:30 PM: CYO Bake Sale (Parish Center)

#### Monday-Friday

- 8:30 AM: Rosary (Chapel)

#### Monday, December 15

- 7:00-8:00 PM: Eucharistic Adoration (Chapel)

- Parish Office closed

### Tuesday, December 16

- 7:00 PM: Scripture Group (Parish Center)

### Wednesday, December 17

- after the 9:00 AM Mass: Miraculous Medal Novena
- 7:00 PM: Choir practice (Parish Center)
- 7:00 PM: Simbag Gabi Mass with Bishop Serratelli (Church)

# Thursday, December 18

- 6:00-7:30 PM: Christmas Pageant practice (Church)

#### Friday, December 19

- 9:30-10:00 AM: Eucharistic Adoration (Chapel)
- 7:00-8:00 PM: Pre-Christmas Confession (Church)

### Sunday, December 21

- Baby walk-in closet is open after Masses
- at all Masses: blessing of Baby Jesus figurines

# FROM FR. MICHAL

We are familiar with the liturgical colors. Today, acquiring fabric in any color is easy. However, historically, the situation was quite different. In ancient times, various dyes were available, but not all colors were readily obtainable. Additionally, the colorfastness of the fabrics varied significantly. The use of the color rose in liturgy is a fascinating topic. It is associated with the color purple and is used twice a year: on the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, and on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, called Laetare Sunday. Therefore, its appearance signifies the upcoming conclusion of the current "purple" liturgical period and the transition to a solemn celebration, whether for Christmas or Easter. Details about the role of color in the liturgy are not well documented. While Innocent III mentions the color rose in his work "De sacro altaris mysterio," he does not elaborate on it. The earliest references to the use of rose on Gaudete and Laetare Sundays date back to the mid-16th century.



It is often described as resembling the sky just before sunrise, symbolizing the anticipation of upcoming celebrations - Christmas or the Resurrection of the Lord.

Rose is also seen as a lighter shade of purple, between purple and white. In this context, it conveys a sense of joy of these significant events, which are celebrated with white vestments. Interestingly, many English-speaking enthusiasts of liturgy prefer to refer to this color as "rose" rather than "pink."

#### **Christmas Confession**

Our pre-Christmas confession will be on Friday, December 19th, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. We will have guest priests. Please mark your calendars!

#### Christmas Mass schedule

Christmas is fast approaching. On Christmas Eve (December 24), Masses will be in the following order: 4:00

PM (at the beginning of the nativity play), 8:00 PM, and 10:00 PM (all Masses in the church). On Christmas Day, Masses will be in the Sunday order, at 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, and 11:00 AM.

# **Wedding Anniversaries**

Due to printing deadlines, I couldn't mention this special celebration. Three couples renewed their wedding vows: Carol and George Cozzolino after 60 years, Marilyn and Bill Kuehner after 60 years, and Fernanda and Robert Quiroga after 25 years. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to these couples and wish them many blessings and good health in their future years together!



# SECOND PART OF ADVENT

Advent is divided into two parts. The first part runs to December 16, and the second part lasts from December 17 to December 24. This division is important, but many people overlook it. In the first part of Advent, we read many prophecies about the end of time. The Gospel highlights the qualities needed for salvation. In the second part of Advent, we focus on prophecies about Christ's first coming and the events leading to His birth. The first two Sundays center on the fulfillment of these prophecies, including the announcement of the Messiah and the mystery of the Immaculate Conception. During the second part of

Advent, we have a helpful tradition called the Great Antiphons. The Church has been using the titles of Christ in the O Antiphons for at least 1,300 years. These antiphons are linked to St. Gregory the Great, and Amalarius of Metz arranged their current order in the 9th century. Over the years, millions of Christians have recited these seven ancient prayers. In medieval monasteries, the largest bell would ring when choirs of monks sang Mary's Magnificat alongside these Advent antiphons. Each antiphon calls on Christ using seven Messianic titles, showing a deep longing for Jesus to come into our lives and help us welcome the Christ child during this special season. All seven titles come from the prophet Isaiah, who gives many memorable images of the Messiah. These titles offer rich reflections on the One who is to come. Of the seven O Antiphons, only one has stayed strong in popular Christian culture, mainly because of an Advent hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." This Messianic title is the last of the seven O Antiphons.

<u>December 17</u>, O Sapientia (O wisdom): *O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one end to the other, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.* 

<u>December 18</u>, O Adonai (O Lord): *Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.* 

<u>December 19</u>, O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse): Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples; before you kings will shut their mouths, to you the nations will make their prayer: Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

<u>December 20</u>, O Clavis David (O Key of David): Key of David and scepter of the House of Israel; you open and no one can shut; you shut and no one can open: Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house, those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

<u>December 21</u>, O Oriens (O Rising Sun): *Morning Star, splendor of light eternal and sun of righteousness: Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.* 

<u>December 22</u>, O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations): *King of the nations, and their desire, the cornerstone making both one: Come and save the human race, which you fashioned from clay.* 

<u>December 23</u>, O Emmanuel (O God Who is With Us): *Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver, the hope of the nations and their Saviour: Come and save us, O Lord our God.* 

In the middle of each antiphon is the word "come." This order is essential. In Latin, the first letters of the invocations read backward to say "ero cras," which means "I will come tomorrow." This demonstrates a trustworthy, eager response to the call. It's important to note that the wait for both the first and second coming of the Lord connects and supports one another. Advent teaches us that waiting has value.

#### BAMBINELLI



Many of us love to set up a Nativity scene at home during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Did you know this lovely tradition started with St. Francis of Assisi? He created the very first Christmas creche on Christmas Eve back in 1223! Continuing this heartwarming practice, Pope John Paul II encouraged children to bring their own figurines of the Infant Jesus to the Angelus prayer for blessing, so they could take them back and add them to their nativity scenes at home. To keep the spirit alive, let's all participate in this wonderful tradition! Next Sunday, feel free to bring your figurines of the Infant Jesus to church. We will bless them during each Mass, making it a special

moment for everyone. Looking forward to seeing you there!

#### SCRIPTURE GROUP - ADVENT: A SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE CONTINUED

The OLM Scripture Group invites everyone to an evening of Advent reflection. We will gather to discuss and to explore more deeply the meaning of Advent and its rich traditions in the life of the Church. Come reflect on how Scripture, prayer, and tradition can help us prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. **Join** 

us on Tuesday, December 16th at 7:00 pm in the lower Parish Center. For questions, please email bible@ourladyofmercyparish.com.

#### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Calling all OLM children! We are excited for another Christmas season and the annual Our Lady of Mercy Christmas Pageant. WHEN: The pageant will take place on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, @ the 4 PM Mass. We will practice twice before that on Thursday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, and Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30 PM in the Church. WHO: Children (Grades 1-8). We will need a narrator(s). There will be several non-speaking roles as well. Mary, Joseph, shepherds, kings, angels, animals, and more. More information to follow through the Religious Formation classrooms. RSVP: By Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Please email ryan.t.salvi@gmail.com with your child's name and grade.

#### STARS IN THE CHAPEL

In our chapel, we have installed 120 stars on the ceiling above the altar, a unique way to support the chapel's restoration. Each of us can contribute to its restoration by donating, and a symbolic Star will represent our contribution on the chapel's vault. By hanging the gold stars, we aim not only to illuminate the chapel's vault but also to raise funds



for its continued restoration. Each Star will be assigned to a specific person or institution that wishes to be a Donor to our chapel. We hope that our shared care for the chapel, as it has been for years, will be met with understanding and support from all who want to see the chapel enhanced and restored to its original beauty. If you would like to purchase a star and thus become a sponsor of our chapel, please contact Joni at the office.

# RORATE MASS



Rorate Mass is a beautiful Advent tradition, celebrated in a soft light to symbolize the anticipation of Christ's arrival. Typically held in the early morning, these Masses are characterized by the use of candles, which create a peaceful and reflective atmosphere. The name "Rorate" comes from the Latin word for "dew," reflecting the hope and expectation of spiritual renewal during the Advent season. It's a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together in prayer and preparation for Christmas. I invite you all to continue this beautiful tradition. Rorate Mass will be celebrated from Monday to Saturday at 6:15 AM in our Chapel.

#### SIMBANG GABI 2025

Join us for the 3<sup>rd</sup> night of the traditional novena of Filipino Masses before Christmas, to be celebrated at Our Lady of Mercy Church on Wednesday, December 17, at 7:00 PM. Bishop Emeritus Arthur Serratelli will be the celebrant. Fellowship and Filipino refreshments will follow the Mass. The Diocesan Commission sponsors this traditional Simbang Gabi for Catholic Ministries (DCCFM) of the Diocese of Paterson. For more information, please contact Dens Mantes at 973-590-8207. Maraming salamat po!

# **RETREAT**

Beginning Friday evening, January 16<sup>th</sup>, through Sunday noon, January 18<sup>th</sup>, we invite all men from our parish to join us in person at Loyola Retreat House in Morristown. A time to relax, reflect, and get a fresh start for the new year. It is a wonderful experience, and the cost is a free will offering of your choice. For more information, please contact John Hendricks at 973-386-0291.

#### THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who took part in our trip to the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA.



# THANK **YOU**

We sincerely thank the Knights of Columbus for cleaning the gymnasium tables and providing new ones. We appreciate your generosity and all your help!

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

### **BAGGING AT SHOP RITE FOR CHARITIES**

On November 22, at the Shop Rite in Cedar Knolls, 17 brother Knights worked approximately 54 hours to bag for charity. This bagging raised \$1783 for charities this coming year.







# TEACHING MASS - THE PENITENTIAL ACT

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal says: "The priest calls the whole community to take part in the Penitential Act, which, after a brief pause for silence, it does by means of a formula of general confession. The rite concludes with the Priest's absolution, which, however, lacks the efficacy of the Sacrament of Penance." Connecting with the divine mysteries of the Eucharist helps us recognize our spiritual shortcomings and sins. This awareness highlights our need for purification. To truly unite with God in love, we must first let go of sin and ask for forgiveness. The purpose of the penitential act is to encourage us to repent. There are four ways to perform this act, including aspersion, in which the priest sprinkles the congregation with holy water. The priest reminds everyone that we are all sinners and invites us to recognize our sins, feel sorrow for them, and seek forgiveness. During the moment of silence, each person reflects on their own actions as St. Paul advises those attending the Lord's Supper (1 Cor 11:28). This is not a detailed examination of conscience, but rather a general acknowledgment of our sinfulness and an act of contrition. The ways we confess our sins and ask for mercy may vary.

# THE GENERAL INSTRUCTION OF THE ROMAN MISSAL

#### 1. The Confiteor

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, [striking their breast] through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

THE KYRIE ELEISON: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

#### Or

#### 2. A brief dialogue

V: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R: For we have sinned against you.

V: Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

R: And grant us your salvation.

#### Or

#### 3. A series of invocations

V: You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:

R: Lord, have mercy.

V: You came to call sinners:

R: Christ, have mercy.

V: You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:

R: Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. *Amen.* 

#### **BIBLE**

"If we acknowledge our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing." (1 Jn 1:9) "Therefore, confess your sins to one another." (Jas 5:16) "Then David said to God, 'I have sinned greatly in doing this thing'" (1 Chr 21:8) in my thoughts (2 Cor 10:5, Mt 5:28, Phil 4:8), in my words (Jas 3:5), failed to do (Jas 4:17, Lk 10:30-32). "the tax collector. would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner! (Lk 18:13) "Brothers, pray for us." (1 Thess 5:25) "Hear, LORD, and have mercy, for you are a merciful God; have mercy on us, who have sinned against you." (Bar 3:2) "Let us see, O LORD, your mercy, and grant us your salvation." (Ps 85:8) "[The LORD] heals the brokenhearted; he binds up all their wounds," (Ps 147:3); "He has sent me to bring good news to the afflicted, to bind up the brokenhearted." (Is 61:1) "Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' I did not come to call the righteous but sinners." (Mt 9:13) "It is Christ [Jesus] who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us" (Rom 8:34; cf. Eph 1:19-20; Col 3:1; Heb 1:3, 7:25) "Have mercy on us, Son of David." (Mt 9:27, cf. Mk 10:46-48) "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David, my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." (Mt 15:22) "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly." (Mt 17:15)

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