

MASS INTENTIONS

MON.,	Dec., 14th	St John of the Cross, Priest
7:00	A.M.	Parishioners
TUES.,	Dec., 15th	Advent Weekday
12:00	P.M.	Emil Mihalek r/o Daughter, Doreen
WED.,	Dec., 16th	Advent Weekday
7:00	A.M.	Peter Piccirillo r/o Diane & Mark Korey
7:00	P.M.	Simbang Gabi
THURS.,	Dec., 17th	Late Advent Weekday
12:00	P.M.	Nicholas Alimecco r/o Rosary, Brian & Dolores
FRI.,	Dec., 18th	Late Advent Weekday
7:00	A.M.	Robert Nodes r/o Dorothy & Bill Rolser
SAT.,	Dec., 19th	Late Advent Weekday
8:00	A.M.	Stella DeRoner r/o Bonnie Cotter
5:00	P.M.	Arthur & Claire Ritchie r/o Francis & Patricia Rick
SUN.,	Dec., 20th	Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:00	A.M.	Colleen Murry r/o Mother & Family
10:00	A.M.	Joseph Mazze r/o The Heineman Family
11:30	A.M.	Joana Vaz & Feliciana Braganza r/o Vaz Family
1:30	P.M.	Jose Velez

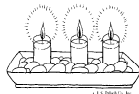
FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 13—20

Altar Candles

Armon de Patullo r/o Niece, Clara Perone & Family

Sanctuary Candles

Rudy Rivera r/o Gayle Troia



Food Collection for FISH:

Today is our monthly food collection for FISH. Thank you for your generous response to so many of our neighbors who are in need, especially at this special time of the year!

We offer our prayers ...

for all serving in the Military
for unborn children
for families around the world
for those in need
for those in hospitals & nursing homes..

PRAY FOR THE SICK...In your charity please pray for the sick of our parish, the sick who remain in our intentions and those whose names are kept on our prayer list.

“Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.” (PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7)

St. Paul reminds us that our God is an abundant God, the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. When we trust that God will take care of us, it is easier for us to share what we have been given.

GOD’S PLAN FOR GIVING

Dec. 5-6.....	\$9,941.00
Major Renovations.....	\$1,870.00
Retired Religious.....	\$3,611.00
ACH Banking for November.....	\$2,112.50
Weekly Expenses.....	\$19,246.00

Opportunities to support your Parish

Did you know that in addition to Mass intentions for your loved ones you may remember them through the following memorial opportunities?

- Floral Memorial at the Altar
- Altar, Sanctuary or Tabernacle Candles
- Meditation Garden Remembrance Bricks
- A gift of cash, securities, or other assets to OLMV

- **Remembering Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish at Christmas:**

As we approach Christmas and the end of the year, we consider our gift to Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish. Very often it is in financially advantageous for us to make tax-deductible donations to our Parish as well as to other worthy organizations and ministries. As we approach the end of the year, sometimes there are also particular tax advantages associated with the donation of stocks, bonds, jewelry, and real property, etc., in addition to cash contributions. Please contact our pastor, Fr. Pat, if you have questions concerning a particular gift to our church.

- **New OLMV “On-line Store” OLMV Religious Goods store:**

In partnership with the Catholic Alliance of the Holy Trinity, Our Lady of Mount Virgin has established an on-line or “e-store.” Parishioners as well as members of the wider community will be able to access the on-line store through our website: **olmv.net**. Click on the Religious Gifts icon once you have accessed the store, you can choose items from the different catalogues. Please note the page number and number of the item as well as its cost. When you have finished shopping, just call the Catholic Alliance and place your order. Please remember to give the parish code so that our parish gets credit for your order. You will receive an e-mail bill that can be paid through “Pay-Pal.” Orders will be shipped direct to you or to any address of your choice. The site seems a little onerous at first, but is really very simple once you get the hang of it. Whenever you shop through this site, you are also supporting Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish. The phone number for the Catholic Alliance is: **1-800-858-2372** and the code for our parish is: **OLMVNJ001**.

A letter from our Pastor

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Rejoice, rejoice, I say to you rejoice!” We take time out of our usual Advent preparation today to spend time rejoicing. We rejoice even as we continue to prepare for the coming of the Christ-child because the Christ-child is, indeed, the Son of God who comes into the human condition to share the “Good News” of salvation!

And, truly we do share “Good News.” Jesus is present now and always! Jesus is the very Christ-child who we celebrate at Christmas!

We light the third Advent candle today. It is the rose candle, not the purple candle of the past two weeks.. Today is also the day when the celebrant wears the rose vestment. This rose color is used on two dates in our liturgical calendar. We use it today, Gaudate Sunday, and we use it in Lent when we celebrate Laetare Sunday. This rose highlights our sense of joy and our need to rejoice. Even in times of humble preparation we are overcome with joy because we begin to realize that it is Jesus who is coming among us---and Jesus really is the Son of God---Jesus who is the Christ-child!

Today we hear the words of John the Baptist. As he speaks to his disciples, he also speaks to us. The Baptist advises us how we are to prepare for the coming of the Lord. The Baptist’s practical answer should resonate loudly in our ears, and it should direct us as we open our hearts in preparation ---as we “make ready!”

What does the Baptist ask of us? Share our food and our goods with the less fortunate. Don’t cheat people when you have power over them. Don’t lie about others to gain advantage. Don’t extort favors; instead, earn your place in society by honest work. Be satisfied with your life. Don’t take advantage of your employer or your employee. When you have agreed to a certain wage, work hard to earn it.

John has called his disciples to repentance. He comes to announce the Lord and to preach repentance as we prepare to meet the Son of God---the Messiah!

John has given us some practical tips. He shares a powerful message to us and to all humanity: be aware that the Lord is coming, repent bad behavior, be humble before the Lord, be compassionate. John says: “Prepare; be ready.” The Baptist reminds us today that the event we await---the event for which we prepare---is an incredible event! And so we must also rejoice!

May we each rejoice today because the Lord is near! As we continue to prepare for Christmas, may we, each of us, take just a little time to acknowledge the goodness of God in our lives. And let us rejoice and let us be glad.

“Rejoice, rejoice, I say to you rejoice---for the Lord is near!”

In peace and prayer,

Father Pat

CHRISTMAS JESSIE TREE



Parishioners are asked to take a tag from the Christmas tree, purchase the gift and return both gift and tag - **unwrapped** to the church by December 13th. Please leave the gifts in the Blessed Mother Chapel. Delivery will be made on December 14th. You may want to include a gift receipt with gifts of clothing.

We look forward to your continued support. We provide gifts to 10 organizations including Catholic Charities, Roosevelt Care Center, Great Expectations and a number of other organizations.

Volunteers are needed to sort, bag and deliver the gifts on Monday morning December 14, 2015 after the 7:00 am Mass.

“Oplatke” or Christmas Wafers are available at the parish office or after Masses during the weekend. The beautiful Christmas tradition of “breaking” the oplatke at our family Christmas meal reminds each of us that Christ is present among us as we gather together to celebrate his birth. **The Knights of Columbus request a \$3.00 donation for one or two for \$5.00 which is used to support their scholarship program.**



Life Choices’ babies need their bottles!

Please return baby bottles to the Church as soon as possible. Bottles can be placed in the white collection boxes in the Mary Chapel.

All of the funds raised will be used to assist families.
Thank you so much!

Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy

In *Misericordiae Vultus*, the Bull of Indiction (or Proclamation) of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis says:



“Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy. These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching its culmination in him. The father, “rich in mercy,” (*Eph 2:4*) after having revealed his name to Moses as “a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness” (*Ex 34:6*) has never ceased to show, in various ways throughout history, his divine nature. In the “fullness of time,” (*Gal 4:4*), when everything had been arranged according to his plan of salvation, he sent his only Son into the world, born of the Virgin Mary, to reveal his love for us in a definitive way. Whoever sees Jesus sees the Father (cf. *Jn 14:9*). Jesus of Nazareth, by his words, his actions, and his entire person reveals the mercy of God.

May we use this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy to shape our lives to be “Merciful like the Father.”

THE DEANERY SCHOOL- HOLY SAVIOR ACADEMY



Holy Savior Academy, 149 South Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield (www.holysavioracademy.com)

Holy Savior Academy is accepting students coming into pre-kindergarten through grade 8. Please contact the school at **908-822-5890** to arrange an interview or to have a tour of the facility.



A 1-1 Catechist is needed for Tuesdays from now until May for a 4th grade student. Please contact Dorothy Zmigrodski (732-356-2149 x2011) if you would be interested in this volunteer position. The 1-1 student meets for approximately 45 minutes each week. Volunteers must be background checked, fingerprinted and attend a one-time workshop.

Winter Faith-Sharing Sessions Beginning Soon!

Join us for a 6 session program as we reflect on the theme of God’s **MERCY**, using the words of Scripture and the writings of Pope Francis. We offer both morning and evening sessions for your convenience: Wednesdays at 10 AM or 7:00 PM in Petra House. Come to **either** session-we **begin on Jan. 6th** (schedules are on bulletin boards around the church). All are welcome, but **you must pre-register in the parish office on or before Dec. 18th** as you will need your book to prepare for the first session. This is a great way to participate in the **YEAR OF MERCY!**

READERS: Please pick up your new 2016 Workbook in the Mary Chapel. Name labels are on each book. Thank you!

Simbang Gabi – 2015 – at OLMV on December 16:

The Filipino Apostolate of the Diocese of Metuchen is again sponsoring **Simbang Gabi**, a series of Masses for nine consecutive days, which honors the Blessed Virgin Mary in preparation for the coming of the Lord. Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish will host the second night of **Simbang Gabi – 2015 on Wednesday, December 16 at 7:30pm**. The theme for the Simbang Gabi celebration this year is “The Year of Mercy.” All parishioners are invited to spend time at Mass as we prepare to welcome the Baby Jesus at Christmas. For additional information about **Simbang Gabi** at OLMV, please contact Jovita Anigi at 732-384-5329.

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December 2015 Children and Youth Ministries Updates

December 13 - 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Afternoon Christmas Movies in the Parish Center Gym (Grades K through 4th)

Need some time for last minute errands, let the OLMV Youth Group help you!!!

Christmas Movies; Light Snack and drink
Craft, Single child \$5; family \$10

December 13— Youth Group
6:00 to 7:00 pm
Christmas Party
Parish Center Gym

A "Deer Ridge Singers" Christmas



The Deer Ridge Singers, directed by Daren L. McCann, will present a Christmas concert here at **Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church on Sunday, December 13 at 7:30pm**. The program will feature holiday works for choir, brass, oboe and percussion. The varied program contains something for everyone. Tickets are \$22 in advance or \$25 at the door. For information or advanced tickets, contact Daren L. McCann at 908-757-1151.

Few Notes from our Pastor:

◆ **Advent Novena:** Monday, December 14, 7:00 pm in the church.

◆ **Christmas Flowers:**

Christmas Flower Remembrance envelopes are included in the envelope packet. All donations are used to defray the cost of flowers at the altar and around the church chapels during the Christmas season. Envelopes are placed by the Tabernacle during the Christmas season and our loved ones are remembered in prayer during Masses throughout the Christmas season. Thank you to our parishioners whose generosity makes it possible for our church to reverence the Christ-child in such a beautiful manner each year.



◆ **Retrouvaille:**

Retrouvaille is a program inviting couples who are experiencing trouble and stress in their marriage. If your marriage has become unloving or if your relationship has become distant, Retrouvaille will assist you to find avenues for communication and the rebuilding of relationships. Retrouvaille is also a program that assists separated and divorced couples who hope to repair their relationship. See additional information about Retrouvaille elsewhere in the bulletin and also on the bulletin boards around the Church.

◆ **Connect to OLMV:**

If you haven't already done so, check out and "like" us on Facebook: **Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church - Middlesex**. To join our e-blast initiative, log on to our website: olmv.net - and click on the "sign up" form right below the "New Connections" information.

◆ **Thank you:**

To the **Members of our Knights of Columbus** who sponsored last week's Breakfast with Santa. Great Job, guys!!!

To **Mary Czachur** for the donation of gift bags for our homebound parishioners.

To **Mary Czachur** for her diligence in organizing our annual "Jessie Tree" program. Thanks also to our many volunteers who prepare the tree and all who help package and deliver the gifts to the different programs that we support.

To **Kelly Rooney** who is working so diligently to expand our youth ministry program as well as outreach to our young adults.

To **Bill Lawrence, Lori Bachovchin, Christine Casale and Dorothy Zmigrodski** who attended the Diocesan "Digital Church" conference and are exporting ways to better communicate with our parishioners through digital media. Through their efforts we now have a Facebook page as well as an e-blast system.

Thursday, December 24th - Vigil

4:00 P.M. (a Special Liturgy with our parish children.)

7:00 P.M.

12:00 Midnight Mass

(Lessons and Carols at 3:30, 6:30 and 11:30 P.M.)



Due to the large crowds who attend Mass on Christmas, the last Mass will be celebrated at **12:00 noon instead of 11:30 A.M.** Please note this change.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday, December 25th

8:00 A.M. 10:00 A.M. 12:00 P.M.

Mary, Mother of God

Thursday, December 31st - Vigil

7:00 P.M.

Friday, January 1st

9:00 A.M. 12:00 noon

REMINDERS -

December 24th - No 12:00 Noon Mass

December 28th -30th - Mass at 9:00 A.M. (M-W) (Tues) 12:00 Noon only

December 31st - Mass at 12:00 Noon and 7:00 P.M.

January 1st - Mass at 9:00 A.M. & 12:00 Noon

January 4th - resume regular daily schedule of 7:00 A.M. (M-W-F) 12:00 Noon (Tu-Th)

PLAN AHEAD... The parish Office will be closed Thursday, December 24th and Friday, December 25th.

* The OLMV Book Club met and discussed the book *
* "The Shack" by Wm. P. Young. Fr. Pat was our special *
* guest during the meeting. Our next meeting is January *
* 25th where we will discuss the book "Until Lily: The *
* First in the Trilogy" by Sherry Boas. Please call or e- *
* mail Dorothy Zmigrodski at dzmigrodski@olmv.net if *
* you would like further information or would like to join *
* our group. *

Banner Bearers needed for the Christmas Midnight Mass

We are looking for four banner bearers for the Christmas Midnight Mass. If you are a high school student or an adult and you would like to carry a banner for the Mass, please see Rives Cassel after any weekend Mass or call the office. There will be one rehearsal.

**REGISTRARSE EN LA PARROQUIA
ES IMPORTANTE!!**

Para calificar para la preparación sacramental (Bautizo, Eucaristía, Confirmación, Matrimonio) AQUELLOS QUE NECESITAN REGISTRARSE...

Pasar por las oficinas y recoger un formulario de inscripción y un sobre de bienvenida.

INFORMACION SACRAMENTAL

- **Bautizo, Confirmación, Primera Comunión, Matrimonios** llamar a nuestras oficinas de Lunes a Jueves a partir de las 8:30 am—2:00 pm (732) 356.2149 ext. 1001.
- **Bautizos:** Los padres DEBEN SER MIEMBROS ACTIVOS E INSCRITOS en la Iglesia OLMV ACTIVOS significa: venir a misa y usar sobres dominicales.

Los padrinos tienen que ser Católicos practicantes de alguna Iglesia donde vivan.

Los padres deben asistir a una clase de preparación para el bautismo.

-Matrimonios: Favor llamar a nuestras oficinas (732) 356.2149 ext 1001.

- **Clases de Preparación Bautismal** (1er Jueves de cada mes 7:30 pm en la casa Petra.) Familias que deseen participar deben llamar a la Oficina parroquial, ser miembros registrados y activos de la parroquia.
- **Clases de Catecismo:** Las inscripciones se han cerrado para este año 2015-2016. Gracias!

Eucharistic Adoration this Friday , December 18th following the 7:00 A.M. Mass until 12:00 noon. **During these hectic days of the holiday rush why not plan to spend some quiet time with Jesus?**

Winter Adult Formation Sessions!

Join us for a 7 session program (plus celebration) as we **accept the challenge of our Holy Father who has called us to live a YEAR OF MERCY!** Our sessions will focus on the topic of MERCY.. And we offer morning (10 AM) and evening (7PM) sessions for your convenience on Wednesdays in Petra House. Come to **either** session which **begin on January 6.** (Information is on poster boards around the church). All are welcome, **but you must pre-register** in the parish office before **January 4 for materials to be ready for you.** Please e-mail Sister James (sjxavier@olmv.net) if you have questions or cannot get to the parish office by the **4th of January.**

Winter Blood Drive – January 10, 2016. 8:00am – 1:00pm. Please mark your calendars for the date. As always, blood is in serious demand. New Jersey Blood Services is very grateful to our generous and caring donors. They have stated in previous letters of gratitude that “There is no substitute for caring people who take time to donate blood so that others may live.” For more information regarding Medical Eligibility for blood donation please call 1-800-688-0900 or visit their website at www.nybloodcenter.org

**Atención
Comunidad Hispana!!!**

Les invitamos a reservar el **20 de Diciembre** para una Misa especial y un compartir Navideno - Villancicos cantados por los niños de la parroquia.

Todos los niños interesados en participar lo pueden hacer anotándose después de Misa con Ana y Joaquin o pueden sus padres llamar durante horas de oficina para registrarlos.

Sera un momento muy lindo para toda la Comunidad entera en estas festividades!



MAS INFORMACIÓN POR VENIR EN

NOVENA DE ADVIENTO EN ESPAÑOL:

LES INVITAMOS A REZAR EL SANTO ROSARIO A LA 1:00 PM EN LA IGLESIA TODOS LOS DOMINGOS. ESPERAMOS PODER CONTAR CON SU PRECENSA!!!

ATENCIÓN COMUNIDAD!

Clases de Inglés como segunda lengua:
Los miércoles de 6-8 pm en el Centro Parroquiano.

**2015 Bishop's Annual Appeal
Grace, Mercy & Peace**

Blessing

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting encouragement and good hope through his grace, encourage your hearts and strengthen them in every good deed and word.

- 2 Thes 2:16-17



**OLMV ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
SOCIETY "HELP LINE"**

732-356-2149 ext. 6

All calls for assistance are confidential

VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM:

donate a vehicle to help the less fortunate.

To do so please call the help line: 732-356-2149 ext. 6

The St Vincent de Paul Society ,

thanks our parishioners for their support.

Donations cards can be found at the church entranceways.

God bless you!