

MASS INTENTIONS

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| MON., 7:00 | Jan., 4th A.M. | St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Deceased Members of Vaz, Braganza & Santimano, Delima Fernandez Families r/o Sheldon & Celisa Vaz |
| TUES., 12:00 | Jan., 5th P.M. | St. John Neumann, Bishop James Reilly & Joseph Lombardi r/o Dad, Mom, James & Jamie Lynn |
| WED., 7:00 | Jan., 6th A.M. | Christmas Weekday Parishioners |
| THURS., 12:00 | Jan., 7th P.M. | Christmas Weekday Thomas & Anna Ford r/o Halloran & Healey Family |
| FRI., 7:00 | Jan., 8th A.M. | Christmas Weekday Ann Domino Special Intention r/o Halloran & Healey Family |
| SAT., 8:00 | Jan., 9th A.M. | Christmas Weekday Patricia Sweeney r/o Danny & Lillian Parisi |
| 5:00 | P.M. | Phillip Munning r/o Rosary Fedak & Family |
| SUN., 8:00 | Jan., 10th A.M. | The Baptism of the Lord Josephine Walsh r/o John M. McCullen |
| 10:00 | A.M. | Joseph & Rosaria Mazze r/o The Children |
| 11:30 | A.M. | Deborah Piegaro r/o Mary & Rich Creteau |
| 1:30 | P.M. | Ninos y familias |

FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 3—9

Altar Candles

Nodes & O'Farrell Families r/o Thomas & Pam O'Farrell

Sanctuary Candles

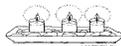
Nodes & O'Farrell Families r/o Thomas & Pam O'Farrell

Tabernacle Candles

Nodes & O'Farrell Families r/o Thomas & Pam O'Farrell

Altar Bread & Wine

Nodes & O'Farrell Families r/o Thomas & Pam O'Farrell



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 in the sacristy and vestibule. Prayers are also requested for the recently deceased: Maria Vanharen and Patricia T. Sweeney.

GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

Dec 27....NOT AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PRINTING

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Major Renovations..... | \$ |
| Immaculate Conception..... | \$ |
| 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

- **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 web-site: **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**.

• **OLMV in the "Digital Age"**

Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish seeks to share the "Good News" that Jesus Christ is present among us. In support of our mission, we have established a **web-site**: www.olmv.net, a **Facebook page**: Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church – Middlesex, and a mass communication initiative (e-blast system) to which you can sign on by accessing our web-site and following the directions on the introductory page. In addition our parish has an **e-store** that can also be accessed through the introductory page of our web-site. Our parish has a committee of dedicated men and women who support our "Digital Communication" efforts. Please feel free to share with our pastor, Father Pat, your suggestions as to how we might more effectively communicate the presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the digital age. Please check out our different communication initiatives. "Like" us on Facebook and remember to sign up for our e-blast initiative.

A letter from our Pastor

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“They did him homage, they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense.” The magi, the wise men from the East, came to him and worshipped him. We are to understand this special moment in Matthew’s Gospel as an affirmation that God’s presence in the world as the Christ-child is for all of humanity. The sign that was foretold in the Scriptures about the coming of the Messiah has not only been fulfilled for the “Chosen” people; but is now also a reality for everyone. This truth is powerfully expressed as the wise men from the East enter the humble home of the Holy Family and kneel in worship. I think that it is important here to consider also what Matthew is also expressing. Just as Jesus is clearly and almost immediately recognized by pagans as the Messiah sent by God; so he is rejected by the “wise and learned” among the Chosen People who are represented by Herod.

We might define “epiphany” as a moment in which someone see or understands something in a radically new way. An epiphany is often referred to as an “Aha” moment. We think of the term “Eureka” or “I have found it.” In the Catholic faith, we consider the “Epiphany” to be the “first manifestation to the Gentiles of Christ as divine.

We recently celebrated the great Feast of Christmas and luxuriated for eight days in spiritual power of so great a feast, so great a gift from God our loving Father! We refer to the eight days of Christmas as the “Octave of Christmas,” an elongated period of time in which we are invited to consider the incredible nature of God’s gift of his Son to us. Hopefully it is during the Octave of Christmas that we, you and me, have come to our own epiphany as we consider the presence of Jesus Christ who has been gifted to us by the Father and who resides deep within our hearts and souls.

We are entering into a new year. Liturgically we are celebrating a “Jubilee Year of Mercy.” Hopefully as we are comforted by the warmth of the crèche scene and as we reflect on the wonderful Christmas customs and activities of the past few weeks, we will continue to experience small, yet powerful epiphanies of faith. As we experience God’s mercy among all the people, may we be enlivened in our faith each and every day!

We live in an unsettled world; one that is beset by violence, greed, distrust, extremism and irreverence. We seem to have lost our moral perspective, awe of life and respect for the dignity of every human person.

Without doubt, the world of 2016 is not a world that presents the easiest of times. But we are invited to enter into this world each and every day and “be unafraid” because we are centered by the presence of the Christ-child---the Father’s true gift to each of us. That is now, and should be, a daily “Epiphany” for you and for me---I have been gifted with the Christ-child and I am invited to share Him with the world. Wow!

In peace and prayer,
Father Pat

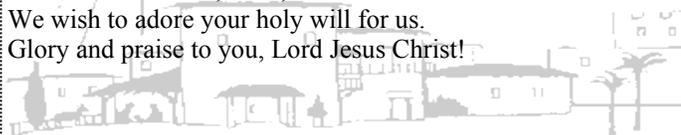
THE WISE MEN COME TO BETHLEHEM

Today the Wise Men see the little child and Mary his mother.

With them, Lord,
we wish to discover you in the midst
of our brothers and sisters.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
Today they prostrate themselves before you

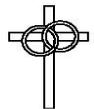
With them, Lord,
We wish to adore your holy will for us.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!



SAVE THE DATE... Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 7:15 PM in the Church. Come along with our OLMV youth and welcome our brothers and sisters of other faiths and celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Plan to attend this special evening PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE! See Bulletin Board for more details.

Wedding Bans

I Richard Serafin & Stephanie Villarino



PARISH REGISTRATION:

In order to be considered a parishioner, all adults (persons 21 years of age or older) must complete a registration form which can be picked up at the parish office. Often, young adults who grew up in the parish don't realize that they must be registered on their own. Please remind young adults (family and friends) that they must register with the parish. Many young adults presume that they are registered because their parents are members of the parish. Once a person has reached adulthood, he or she must register in person to be considered a member of the parish. **To be eligible to receive sacraments or to receive sponsor letters, persons must be registered and active members of OLMV.**

**Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy
Opportunities at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish**

In *Misericordiae Vultus*, Pope Francis teaches, "At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's action in our lives." Here at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church, we have a number of opportunities for parishioners "to become a more effective sign of the Father's action in our lives." These include liturgical and other prayer opportunities, educational opportunities (on-going Wednesday Adult Formation), and opportunities for social action. Many of these opportunities are a continuation of our regular activities, which are now geared to the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. Below are the parish opportunities for the month of January 2016.



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

January 2016

January 16-17: Food Collection for FISH

January 18, 7:00pm (Monday): Novena in Honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal with a reflection for the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy

January 19, 7:15pm (Tuesday): Prayer Service for Christian Unity

January 25, 7:00pm (Monday): Novena in Honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal with a reflection for the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS: Our monthly Baptism Preparation Class will be held this **Thursday, January 7th at 7:30 P.M. at Petra House.** Please call the Parish Office to register. Baptism dates may be selected after completing this one evening of preparation.

Evangelization Meeting... Saturday, January 9, at 10:30 am in Petra House... join us to plan our upcoming Ecumenical Prayer Service for Peace. New members WELCOME!

ADULT CONFIRMATION SESSIONS... are about to begin! Join this interested group who gather to deepen their love and commitment to Jesus and their understanding of the Catholic faith. If you are over 18 years of age and have celebrated Baptism and Communion, but not Confirmation, you are welcome to our **FIRST MEETING ON MONDAY, JANUARY 11 at 7:00 PM in PETRA HOUSE.** Please call Sister James to register or for further information (732-609-1091).

**THE DEANERY SCHOOL-
HOLY SAVIOR ACADEMY**



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

Holy Savior Academy accepts 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.

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

The 2015 Bishop's Annual Appeal continues until the end of the fiscal year, June 2016, so it's not too late to make a gift. Our goal is to have 100% participation. Please prayerfully consider supporting the appeal with a pledge or one-time gift as your means allow. Your support is greatly appreciated.



A 1-1 Catechist is needed for Tuesdays from now until May for a 4th grade student. Please contact Dorothy Zmigrodski (732-356-2149 x 2011) 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.

Food Collection for Fish, Inc. January 16—17. We are asking each family to consider donating one or more of the following:

- A box of cereal or
- A package of rice or pasta or
- A canned good item or
- A can of coffee or
- A box of tea bags or

Any single non-perishable food item
Many in our parish are contributing a bag full of these items, and we are very grateful – but our collection would be "over the top" if every family would give even one item a month. Our last month's collection yielded 102 packages of food. Thank you and God bless you!



**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!**

Few Notes from our Pastor:

• **Cemetery Masses:**

A Mas of Remembrance is celebrated on the 1st Saturday of each month at 9:00am at both Resurrection Cemetery and at Holy Cross cemetery. All members of our parish as well as parishes throughout the diocese are invited to attend these Masses and remember loved ones who have been called home to God.

• **Purgatorial Society Masses:**

A monthly “Purgatorial Society Mass” is celebrated on the 1st Saturday of each month at Our Lady of Mount Virgin. This multiple intention Mass, which remembers our loved ones who have died. See one of the secretaries in the Parish Office to arrange for a loved one to be registered in the Purgatorial Society, and be remembered at Masses each month.

• **Epiphany, What is it?**

An “epiphany” is a special moment of unexpected awareness of something affecting our spiritual or psychic lives. It is often referred to an “**Aha**” or “**Wow**” moment. I remember a moment a number of years ago when I was speaking to a group of youngsters before Mass was about to start. At the time I was a principal of an elementary school, and I usually walked to the ambo and quieted the children, directing them to silent preparation to meet Jesus during the Mass. As I was speaking to the children on this particular morning, it suddenly occurred to me how deeply I believed what I was saying to them about meeting Jesus during Mass. That was the moment that I knew I had to pursue a vocation to the priesthood. It was a moment where I knew, without a doubt, that God was calling me to serve our Lord in a different way. For me it was a “Wow” moment, a true epiphany! Often in my ministry I will speak to young men or women who will share that special moment when they knew beyond any doubt that they would propose to their boyfriend or girlfriend. An epiphany is a special and profound moment that, if we are attuned to it, can open our hearts and souls to new and unexpected places. Today we hear the story of wise travelers who journey to encounter Jesus. Somehow they knew that if they followed a certain star, they would encounter God’s presence in the world. What an epiphany to enter a humble home and encounter the living God! Don’t we have the opportunity to encounter the living God each and every day! We are invited to share in an ongoing epiphany. “**Wow.**”

• **Thank you:**

A special “Thank you” from Father Pat and Father Mark for the many kindnesses shared during the Christmas season. The thoughtfulness and graciousness of so many parishioners is truly appreciated. Thanks you for the cards, the gifts, the homemade cookies and breads, the candy, the different foods, the thoughtful libations!!! Your presence is the best gift of all! We are very blessed and thankful to be able to serve you here at OLMV!

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

Altar Rosary Society
Super Bowl “Bake Sale” weekend of
February 6—7 after all Masses
Please mark your Calendars!!!



Looking to the future:

Easter Novena:

Our **Easter Novena** begins early this year: Monday, January 18, 2016 is our first novena in preparation for Easter. Easter is very early this year: Sunday, March 27, 2016. So, even now, it is not too early to begin that wonderful transition from thought about the Christ-child to thoughts about the Risen Lord!

First Penance:

Our second grade students will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Monday evening, February 1, 2016. During this beautiful ceremony the children are encouraged to open their hearts and souls and encounter the Living and forgiving God. At the end of the confession experience the children receive a simple penance and then are presented with a “soft heart” to remind them that through God’s loving forgiveness, their souls are no longer deadened by sin--and are open to God’s love. Let us remember our youngsters in prayer as they continue to grow in wisdom and grace before the Lord.

Anointing of the Sick:

Our Lady of Mount Virgin celebrates Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick during Advent and during Lent. This year our Lenten Mass of Anointing will take place on Saturday, March 5, 2016 at 11:00am. All who are suffering from sickness or infirmity are invited to attend this special healing Mass. Mark your calendars. At other times, when a parishioner is in need of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, please call the parish office to arrange for a visit by one of our priests.

Lenten Penance Service:

Our annual Lenten Penance Service for our Parish will take place on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 7:00pm here in our church. All members of our parish are invited to celebrate the powerful Sacrament of Reconciliation---particularly during this Jubilee Year of Mercy. Mark your calendars.

Boletín en Español
Domingo 3 de Enero del 2016
La Epifanía del Señor

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

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

Passar 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!

Atención

Comunidad Hispana!!!

Les queremos agradecer por toda su colaboración y ayuda a la parroquia este año 2015!

Gracias por su gran generosidad durante los compartires de la Comunidad.

Esperamos que tengan un Feliz Prospero Año Nuevo y que sea Nuestra Señora del Monte Virgen el lugar donde se reúnan a celebrar la Santa Misa y que la Comunidad crezca en cantidad tanto como en espiritualidad. Gracias al grupo timon por su arduo trabajo durante el año y gracias Ana & Joaquin Palucha por su liderasgo.

NOVENA DE ADVIENTO EN ESPAÑOL:

Gracias a todos los que colaboraron con El rezo de la Novena de Adviento por nueve Domingos!
De Corazon gracias...

**Actividades y anuncios de la parroquia
Nuestra Señora del Monte Virgen**

- **Adoración al Santísimo:** Primer y tercer Viernes de cada mes, de 7:30 am—12:00 medio día, son todos invitados a pasar un tiempo en devoción y en oración con el Santísimo.
- **Collecta de alimentos para los más necesitados FISH:** Tercer Domingo de cada mes. Las bolsas de comida las pueden dejar en la capilla donde se encuentra la estatua de la Virgen María.
- **Proxima Clase Bautismal:** Jueves 7 de Enero 7:30 pm. Familias que deseen participar deben llamar a la oficina parroquial.
- **Gracias** a todos los niños que participaron en el coro para el compartir navideno, se prepararon por más de un mes e hicieron un excelente trabajo! Agradecimiento en especial a el Señor Rives Cassel Por su tiempo con la preparación del coro de niños.

FELIZ AÑO 2016!!! Que Dios los bendiga ..

ATENCIÓN COMUNIDAD!

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

**UNA INVITACION ESPECIAL PARA
TODOS LOS FELIGRESES!!!**

Dios nos ha dado tantos dones y talentos que pueden ser compartidos con la Iglesia. Si deseas ser voluntario en la Iglesia de alguna manera, puedes tomar en cuenta algunas de las siguientes áreas en las cuales podríamos necesitar de tu ayuda:

- Ministro Eucarístico
- Monaguillos
- Lectores
- Ministros de Hospitalidad
- Lectores
- Sirviendo una mes al mes en el café social
- Visitando a los enfermos

Recuerden que somos una Comunidad nueva y estamos trabajando en el desarrollo de la Comunidad el pueblo de Dios, invita a un familiar o un amigo a asistir a Misa y hasta parte como miembro activo de esta gran tarea para todos que es el crecimiento de nuestra comunidad. Gracias!