

MASS INTENTIONS

MEDITATION GARDEN AND REMEMBRANCE WALKWAY

It has been a great grace to see so many members of our parish stop by and visit our new Memorial Garden and Remembrance Walkway. Even on a cold clear day, it is a wonderful place to spend a minute or two in prayer. As you know, bricks are available for purchase. Each brick that is purchased assists our parish as we plan to address areas of our facility that need updating. Contact Father Pat to arrange the purchase of a brick. Bricks are available in three colors and two sizes (4" x 8" for \$150.00 and 8" x 8" for \$250.00). Memorial bricks are a powerful expression of our love for God and for OLMV Church.

MON., 7:00	Feb. 1st A.M.	Weekday Joseph & Christopher Comune r/o Family
TUES., 12:00	Feb. 2nd P.M.	The Presentation of the Lord Barbara Zakashefski r/o Zakashefski Family
WED., 7:00	Feb., 3rd A.M.	Weekday Parishioners
THURS., 12:00	Feb., 4th P.M.	Weekday Noel & Mary Orane r/o Daughters & Family
FRI., 7:00	Feb., 5th A.M.	Weekday Paul Murphy r/o Bernadetter & Donald Colanduoni
SAT., 8:00 5:00	Feb., 6th A.M. P.M.	St. Paul Miki, Martyrs Purgatorial Society Linda S. Smith r/o Mary & Edward Deitrick
SUN., 8:00 10:00 11:30 1:30	Feb., 7th A.M. A.M. A.M. P.M.	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Gloria Mansolino r/o Donna & Taylor Anthony Michael Andrew Fitzgerald r/o Brian, Kathleen, Connor, Gavin & Shannon Leo Collins r/o Wife, Toni Primer Cumpleaños de Victoria Jimenez

*"John answered them all, 'I baptize you with water;
but he who is mightier than I is coming...he will baptize
you with the Holy Spirit...' " (Luke 3:16)*

GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

Jan. 24.....NOT AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PRINTING

Impact of the Blizzard of 2106:

Due to the Blizzard last week, there were very few parishioners at Mass. Parishioners are respectfully requested to consider their generosity during the next few weeks as OLMV Parish continues to meet its regular obligations and the extraordinary costs in response to the blizzard. Thanks you to your generous response to the ongoing financial obligations of our parish.

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

**We will NOT have our Lenten Novena this
Monday, February 1st, 2016.**

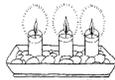
FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 31—FEBRUARY 7

Sanctuary Candles

Kopystenski & Murray Families r/o Lottie
Murray & Family

Altar Flowers

Joseph & Christopher Comune r/o Comune Family



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: John Flesher.

Automatic Deposit (ACH Banking):

Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish has an arrangement with Provident Bank for Automatic Deposit (ACH Banking) for our parishioners. Many parishioners tell me that the only check they write out each week is the one for our church; that they do all their other banking through automatic deposit or online. Please find applications for automatic deposit banking that are available around the church entranceways. Completed forms should be returned to Father Pat. Please contact Father Pat if you want additional information about this program.

A letter from our Pastor

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Jesus is in the synagogue in his home town, reading from a Scroll of Isaiah. He tells the people gathered around him: "Today, this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." It seems that in the beginning, the people were amazed and awed at Jesus' ability interpret the Scriptures. This is their "hometown son." They have heard about his signs and wonders---undoubtedly, some of them would have been at Cana and tasted the wine!!!

As impressed at they may have been, their mood quickly becomes ugly. They know who Jesus is (or at least, they think they do!). They begin to reject this "low-born" man who comes from such a questionable birth. How can he have the arrogance to teach with such authority? They take exception to him and throw him out of the synagogue. They become a mob, willing to act with violence, because they think it is not possible that Jesus could preach in the name of Yahweh who is our loving Father.

Jesus challenges his neighbors who come to the synagogue to hear him. He challenges their willingness to condemn him. He challenges their lack of faith. He reminds them that in the time of Elijah and Elisha, God chose those outside the House of Israel to show forth His mighty power. Jesus makes clear that they will not be "entertained." Jesus lets them know that there is no active movement of God's Spirit in their midst because they have so little faith in him. What transpired during the time of Elisha and Elijah transpires among Jesus' neighbors.

We are asked today to think about how his scriptural passage applies to us. So often, the Spirit of God lies dormant in our midst because of our lack of faith in the reality of Jesus Christ. Our relationship with Jesus can become little more than the occasional request for favors (miracles) in times of difficulty. Today there are far too many people who consider themselves to be "Christian," or even "Catholic." They think the occasional prayer or the occasional offering is enough for them. It is not! Lack of faith didn't work for the people of Jesus' day; it didn't work for the people in the time of Elijah or Elisha; is certainly is not working for the people of our own generation!

As we consider Jesus' words today, we are we are reminded that we must live our faith in response to Jesus' active presence in our lives. It is not enough for us to **say** we are faithful; we must **be** faithful---today and every day. When we consider the words of the Lord in today's Gospel, we realize that we cannot merely speak of our faith; we must, rather, live our faith and commit to our faith each and every day. Then we must allow that faith to be at the very center of our lives.

Father Pat

BLIZZARD OF 2016:

It looks like we survived the Blizzard of 2016! Congratulations and thank you to the slightly more than 100 parishioners who braved the weather to attend Mass here at OLMV! As always, Mass was celebrated at our usual weekend times. Weather doesn't prevent us from making sure that we are prepared to share the presence of the Lord to our faithful parishioners. A special thank you to Ed Kura and the members of our Maintenance Department who worked so hard to keep ahead of the blizzard on Saturday and continued their efforts of Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. The entire parish should be very proud of the work effort of our fine staff: Ed, Sean, Don, Richie and Joe!!! A special thank you to **L. N. Rothberg and Son, Inc.** John Rothberg arranged for a front loader to clear the main entrance of the church and also the parish center parking lot. Due to the severity of the storm, our own truck was unable to penetrate the entranceways after the borough had cleared the streets. John and L. N. Rothberg and Son, Inc. are really true friends of OLMV!!! Thank you!!!

I hope and pray that each and every parishioner is fully recovered from the impact of the storm.

NAOMI TEA... Sunday, January 31...12:30—2:00 PM
in Petra House... We welcome **ALL WIDOWS** to join us as we gather to share prayer, conversation, and refreshments. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet friends and discover others who have suffered the same loss. No need to register; just come and bring a friend or someone who might need a ride or a personal invitation. Small bite-sized desserts to share are also appreciated!

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* **Altar Rosary Society** *
* **Super Bowl "Bake Sale" weekend of** *
* **February 6—7 after all Masses** *
* **Please mark your Calendars!!!** *
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OLMV in the electronic Age:

Don't forget to visit us and like us on Facebook: Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church – Middlesex.
If you haven't already done so, sign up for our parish's e-blast e-mail system. Information and directions can be found on our parish web-site: olmv.net.

Few Notes from our Pastor:

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 to 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 the 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.

LAZURUS MINISTRY: General meeting on **Monday, February 8, 7:00 PM in Petra House**. COME AND LEARN how just a little of your time can mean a great deal to those who has lost a loved one. The many aspects of the ministry will enable your gifts to be used for the good of others at their time of grief! We specially invite members of the MARTHA'S TABLE MINISTRY to join us for this annual meeting. Please call S. James (732-609-1091) if you have any questions or speak to a member of our Ministry.

**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.

Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy



The gospel for this week is a continuation of the gospel for last week. Jesus' statement, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing" connects the two weeks. In *Misericordiae Vultus*, the Bula de Indicción (or Proclamation) of the Jubileo de la Misericordia (#16), Pope Francis speaks of the scripture passage from Isaiah to which Jesus is referring, saying:

"In the Gospel of Luke, we find another important element that will help us live the Jubilee with faith. Luke writes that Jesus, on the Sabbath, went back to Nazareth and, as was his custom, entered the synagogue. They called upon him to read the Scripture and to comment on it. The passage was from the Book of Isaiah where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and freedom to those in captivity; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (*Is 61:1-2*). A "year of the Lord's favour" or "mercy": this is what the Lord proclaimed and this is what we wish to live now. This Holy Year will bring to the fore the richness of Jesus' mission echoed in the words of the prophet: to bring a word and gesture of consolation to the poor, to proclaim liberty to those bound by new forms of slavery in modern society, to restore sight to those who can see no more because they are caught up in themselves, to restore dignity to all those from whom it has been robbed. The preaching of Jesus is made visible once more in the response of faith which Christians are called to offer by their witness. May the words of the Apostle accompany us: he who does acts of mercy, let him do them with cheerfulness (cf. *Rom 12:8*)."

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

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

For over 32 years, the *Phillipsburg Social Service Center*, operated by Catholic Charities, has opened its doors to those with limited assets who search for the everyday means of sustenance. In addition to its food pantry and thrift shop, the Center also provides essential information, advocacy, referral and case management.

Through your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal, you are a caring companion on the journey to self-reliance for so many families in need. Please give as generously as your means allow.

To date, 295 parishioners at OLMV have pledged or contributed \$ 55,460.00 to the Annual Bishop's Appeal. Please consider your gift to this important Appeal if you have not already done so. Bishop Bootkoski thanks you for your support which enables our Diocese to continue to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people of our diocese.

Memorial Floral Arrangements at the Altar:

Families are invited to arrange to have flower arrangements placed in front of the Altar in remembrance of a loved one. Arrangements are placed before the altar prior to the Vigil Mass on Saturday evening and remain during the following week. Please contact Gabriella Rosales at the parish office for additional information.

Registration of New Parishioners:

Our Lady of Mount Virgin welcomes all visitors to share in the presence of the Lord. Persons who have recently moved into our area are invited to contact the parish office to receive registration information. Please call the parish at 732-356-2149 to speak to one of the parish secretaries.

Sacramental Sponsorship Letters:

Canon Law (Church Law) mandates that candidates who wish to serve as a Godparent for Baptism or a Sponsor for Confirmation be **ACTIVE Catholics** who have been Confirmed in the Church. An **ACTIVE Catholic** is a parishioner who is registered, attends Mass regularly, contributes to the support of the church, is in a valid Catholic marriage and leads a life that is compatible with the tenets of our faith. The parish can complete letters of suitability to serve as godparents or sponsors only for persons who meet these criteria.

Special Collection for Flood Victims:

The **USCCB** has asked parishes to take a "special collection for humanitarian needs" in response to the severe weather: violent storms, tornados and floods which have impacted many areas in the South and Midwest of the United States.

A free will collection will be taken today as a second collection at all Masses. All funds collected will be used in support of emergency assistance for those most impacted by the recent severe weather in the South and Midwest.

The Bishops of the United States thank you for your compassionate concern and loving support for our brothers and sisters in need. Thank you.

LENT – 2016:

Ash Wednesday is early this year: **February 10, 2016**. Please take time to review next week's bulletin to find our schedule for the Distribution of Ashes and for the different spiritual activities that will take place here at OLMV during the weeks for Lent. Please also look for Bishop Bootkoski's instruction of Lent which will also be available in next week's bulletin.

"Forgiveness/Mercy" Retreat:

A "Forgiveness/Mercy" retreat will take place on February 5 and 6, 2016 at Immaculate Conception Church in Somerville, NJ. All parishioners are cordially invited to attend this "Healing" retreat. Please see additional information in the bulletin boards around the church. Please contact Immaculate Conception Church at 732-725-1112 ext. 1124 for additional information or to sign up for the retreat.

Baptismal Class: Thursday, February 4, 7:30 pm. Please call the Parish Office to register.

Eucharistic Adoration: Friday, February 5, 7:30 am—12:00 noon. Everyone is invited to spend quiet time with the Lord!!

JOURNEY THROUGH GRIEF:

Have you lost of loved one? This is about joining our "Journey Through Grief." Our mission is to find healing, comfort and peace. When a loved one dies, our world changes. Our hearts are broken and the simplest things of life become an enormous challenge as we are faced with sadness, loneliness and, even anger.

Date: April 7 through May 26, 2016

Time: Thursdays from 2:30 - 4:00 P.M.

Place: Petra House, 630 Harris Avenue, Middlesex (between the Church and Meditation Garden) parking and entrance in the back of the building

Moderators: Monique Sasso (732-356-9001)

Pat Oeskovic (732-356-8886)

Catholic School 2016—2017 Tuition Assistance Online Application Process Open

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen Catholic elementary or high school may do so beginning January 31, 2016. The application process is now online through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment. Online applications must be completed (including supporting documentation) by no later than Friday, April 15, 2016. Applications are available in English and Spanish.

Families that need assistance completing the online application, or need access to technology to apply, may register for one the 14 Application Workshops that will be held throughout the Diocese in February, March and April by going to www.diometuchen.org/schools/tuition-assistance and following the Workshops link.

Boletín en Español
Domingo 24 de Enero del 2016
III Domingo Ordinario

**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 sobros 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!

**AÑO DE LA MISERICORDIA
JUBILEO DE LA MISERICORDIA**



En *Misericordiae Vultus*, the Bula de Indicción (o Proclamación) de el Jubileo de la Misericordia (#16), el Papa Francisco habla en el evangelio de hoy:

“En el Evangelio de Lucas encontramos otro aspecto importante para vivir con fe el Jubileo. El evangelista narra que Jesús, un sábado, volvió a Nazaret y, como era costumbre, entró en la Sinagoga. Lo llamaron para que leyera la Escritura y la comentara. El paso era el del profeta Isaías donde está escrito: «El Espíritu del Señor sobre mí, porque me ha ungido para anunciar a los pobres la Buena Nueva, me ha enviado a proclamar la liberación a los cautivos y la vista a los ciegos, para dar la libertad a los oprimidos y proclamar un año de gracia del Señor» (61,12). “Un año de gracia”: es esto lo que el Señor anuncia y lo que deseamos vivir. Este Año Santo lleva consigo la riqueza de la misión de Jesús que resuena en las palabras del Profeta: llevar una palabra y un gesto de consolación a los pobres, anunciar la liberación a cuantos están prisioneros de las nuevas esclavitudes de la sociedad moderna, restituir la vista a quien no puede ver más porque se ha replegado sobre sí mismo, y volver a dar dignidad a cuantos han sido privados de ella. La predicación de Jesús se hace de nuevo visible en las respuestas de fe que el testimonio de los cristianos está llamado a ofrecer. Nos acompañen las palabras del Apóstol: «El que practica misericordia, que lo haga con alegría» (*Rm* 12,8).”

Espero que podamos usar este Año de la Misericordia para ser “Misericordiosos como el Padre.”

**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 mas 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 Maria.

- **Proxima Clase Bautismal:** Jueves 4 de Febrero 7:30 pm. Familias que deseen participar deben llamar a la oficina parroquial.

Gracias a todos feligreses que de una u otra ayudan cada semana para el crecimiento de la Comunidad y por escoger a Nuestra Señora del Monte Virgen ser su lugar donde puedan servirle a Dios.

Que Dios los bendiga...

**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

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!