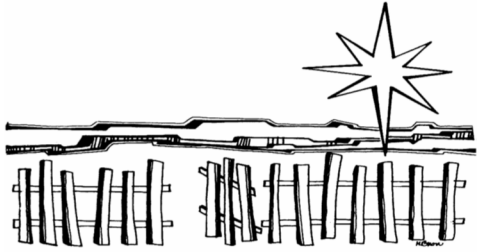


**FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

November 30, 2014



Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.

-Mark 13:33

**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>MON.,</b> 7:00	<b>Dec. 1<sup>st</sup></b> A.M.	<b>Advent Weekday</b> Marie Graf r/o Graf & Jacobs Family
<b>TUES.,</b> 12:00	<b>Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup></b> P.M.	<b>Advent Weekday</b> Rosemary Walsh r/o Henrietta Capano
<b>WED.,</b> 7:00	<b>Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup></b> A.M.	<b>St. Francis Xavier, Priest</b> Bernard V. Salvatore r/o Wife, Margaret, Children & Grandchildren
<b>THURS.,</b> 12:00	<b>Dec. 4<sup>th</sup></b> P.M.	<b>Advent Weekday</b> Rosemary Walsh r/o Mr. & Mrs. Tony Archer
<b>FRI.,</b> 7:00	<b>Dec. 5<sup>th</sup></b> A.M.	<b>Advent Weekday</b> Arlene McCullen r/o John McCullen
<b>SAT.,</b> 8:00 5:00	<b>Dec. 6<sup>th</sup></b> A.M. P.M.	<b>Advent Weekday</b> Purgatorial Mass Josephine Colaluca r/o Daughter in Law, Sheila
<b>SUN.,</b> 8:00 10:00 11:30 1:30	<b>Dec. 7<sup>th</sup></b> A.M. A.M. A.M. P.M.	<b>Second Sunday in Advent</b> Ralph & Bernice Cerne r/o Diane & Frank Grabas Theresa Zabawsky r/o Richard & Mary Ann Zakashefski Federick Bowe r/o Wife Cominidad Hispana

**Week of November 30—December 7**

**Altar Candles**

Elizabetta Maruca r/o Joseph Gidaro



**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. Prayers are requested for the recent deceased: Mary Morge.

**November Food Collection and Turkey Roundup for FISH, Inc. Thank you!** Thanks to the many people who contributed food and volunteer time to this larger than usual collection. Many in our area had an abundant Thanksgiving celebration thanks to this effort. Our parish donated 186 bags of food, 2 cases, 35 turkeys, 3 hams, 5 Boxes of turkey stuffing and 1 bag of potatoes to the FISH, Inc. pantry. We certainly went over the top in caring and generosity for those in need. God bless you!

**TODAY'S READING'S:**

**First Reading** — We are the clay and you, O Lord, are the potter: we are the work of your hands (Isaiah 63:16,17,19;64:2-7).

**Psalm** — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

**Second Reading** — God is faithful; by God you were called to fellowship with the Son (1 Corinthians 1:3-9).

**Gospel** — Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. (Mark 13:33-37).

**“CHRISTMAS 50/50 RAFFLE:”**

By now our parishioners have received a chance book for our “Christmas 50/50 Raffle. I am asking, hopefully, that each of our parish families will support our parish with an extra 20 dollars at Christmas! As you know, the needs are great and just as our parishioners are so stretched financially, so is our parish. Your active support in taking or selling the book of chances will benefit our parish, and I know that the Christ-child will bless you at this time of the year!. A book contains 5 chances and the donation is \$5.00 per chance or \$20.00 for a book. There will be only one winner---won't that be a nice call to receive on New Year's Day after the noon Mass!!! Share the Christmas Spirit here at OLMV and support our parish raffle. Thanks!!!

**WEDDING BANNERS**

II Joseph J. Chojnowski & Elizabeth D'Addio

**ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE**  
**WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 6-7**

5:00 pm—	Amelia Casale Erin Rooney Vincent Miller
8:00 am—	Katie Schilp Mary Schilp
10:00 am—	T. Sviderskis-Carroll A. Sviderskis-Carroll Katelyn Carmona
11:30 am—	Jordan McEvoy Sheridan Hoyt Gavin Fitzgerald



**Our Weekly Offering**

“Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come.” - MARK 13:33 We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. Our lives are so busy, many of us are planning our time - our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to what God is saying to you.

**Nov. 23 .....NOT AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PRINTING**

Hispanic Mass .....	
Major Renovations.....	
Debt Reduction.....	
Weekly Parish Expenses.....	\$19,246.00



We are now in the holy season of Advent. Advent is at time of joyful and expectant preparation for the coming of the Lord. It is a time that is rich in symbols: images of light and darkness, images of silence and waiting, deep purple colors that remind us of both the kingly nature of the Lord as well as the penitential aspect of Advent. Advent is a special time to make that extra effort to arrive a little early for Mass and to spend some time reflecting on the signs and symbols of the season which can be found around the church. You will notice the evergreen Advent wreath with the Advent candles standing stately within its center. The evergreen wreath reminds us of the eternal and everlasting presence of Jesus Christ, and the four candles remind us that Jesus, the Light of the World is coming ---each week the light shines more brightly as we await the Savior of the world. An additional Advent candle is lit each Sunday to remind us that Jesus is ever closer to our hearts and souls. On the third Sunday, the candles is rose colored as are the vestments worn by the priest and deacon. The rose color reminds us that there is great hope and excitement even as we continue to wait with expectation for the Christ-child. Today we light the first candle and the Scriptures remind us that we must "stay awake, for we do not know when the Lord will come." So, let us prepare to greet the Lord. Let us look to Jesus, the Light, and prepare to welcome him soon.

**CHRISTMAS JESSE TREE** - Because *Thanksgiving* is so late this year, we will be putting the Jesse Tree up the weekend of **November 22-23, 2014**. As in the past, parishioners are asked to take a tag from the tree, purchase the gift and return both tag and gift - **unwrapped** - to the church by the weekend of **December 6-7, 2014**. You may want to include a receipt in gifts of clothing or slippers. **Volunteers are needed** to sort, bag and deliver the gifts on Monday, December 8 **after the 7:00 am Mass**. We look forward to your continued generous support again this year.



**WRAP OTHERS IN THE WARMTH OF LOVE THIS ADVENT SEASON!** OLMV Altar Rosary Society will be **collecting used and wearable winter coats**. **Donations can be dropped off in the Cry Room the weekend of November 29—30**. Any questions, please email Adrienne at [adriennesvid@aol.com](mailto:adriennesvid@aol.com) or contact the Parish Office. **Thank you.**



**THANK YOU...**

A special **"thank you"** to the members of our parish community who supported the recent fund-raiser for Danny Garofalo.

- **THANK YOU** also to everyone who helped to make the "Cub Scouts Family Breakfast" a success.
- **THANK YOU** also to our generous parishioners who supported the "Debt Reduction" collection. Your support helps our parish to meet its ongoing financial obligations.

**St. JOSEPH PARISH IN RARITAN** will sell Piroghy after weekend Masses throughout Advent. In addition, Piroghy are available at the parish office. Kolach (fruit/nut rolls) may be ordered as well. Please contact the parish office at 908-725-0163 x 10 for additional information. Saint Joseph's Church is located in Raritan at 16 E. Somerset Street.



**My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

"What I say to you, I say to all. Watch!"

We seem to have journeyed so easily from the great feast of Christ the King and arrived, yet again, at the beginning of Advent. Just three days ago, we sat among family and friends to participate in the wonderful American celebration of "Thanksgiving." We broke bread together, and hopefully, spent time in real and true thanksgiving as we enjoyed each other's company, shared a great meal, watched football on the TV, and experienced a short period of peace and contentment.

Here we are now, at the start of the powerful season of Advent. We come together this morning and light the first Advent candle with great hope and expectation as we begin preparation for the coming of the Christ-child. In a sense, we continue to celebrate everything for which we should be thankful, in particular, the gift of Jesus Christ whose Spirit is ever-present among us.

Advent is a very special time for us as Catholic believers. It is time of "new beginnings" and of hopeful expectation. It is, indeed a time of watchful expectation! Today's Gospel passage reminds us that we await the coming of the Lord. This has to be understood in two powerful ways. First, we understand that Advent is a time when we prepare for the arrival of the Christ-child. Jesus comes into the world as the greatest of gifts from the Father in response to the powerful "Fiat" of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is her "Yes" that is the human invitation for the presence of God to enter into our lives in an incredible way---Jesus is the Son of God, enfleshed into the human condition!

We are also invited to think about the Second Coming, that time of the final judgment. In today's Gospel passage, Jesus speaks about a man who is away from home and has entrusted his possessions to servants. We are reminded, that like the servants and the gatekeeper, we must also be ever-watchful for the arrival of the Master. Just as the Master of the house might return at an unexpected and maybe even inconvenient time, so also might our Lord call us to an accounting at a time when we don't expect. So we must be alert and watchful---always!

Today we begin in earnest, to prepare for the coming of the Baby Jesus. We also are aware that as we prepare, we recognize that preparation in an ongoing process. We get ready to welcome the new-born baby on Christmas morning, but we also try to live our lives each and every day in such a way that we are always ready to encounter the Lord when he comes again!

Today we enter into this time of hopeful and watchful expectation. We light the first Advent candle and we look to the light---soft, yet beckoning---and we begin to think about the joyful experience of Christmas. At the same time, we become powerfully aware that we must prepare to meet the Lord all the days of our lives.

Therefore, What I say to you I say to all." Be watchful, be alert! Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Father Pat**



**THE DEANERY SCHOOL:  
HOLY SAVIOR ACADEMY**

Holy Savior Academy is the Catholic School for the Middlebrook Deanery. Located at 149 South Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, it serves children in Pre-K through grade 8. After school programs are available as well as a year-round pre-kindergarten program. Please review the school web-site: [holysavioracademy.com](http://holysavioracademy.com), or contact the principal, Mrs. Kristen Kiernan, at 908-822-5890 to find out additional information or to request a tour of the school.

**OLMV PARISH CALENDAR...**

Our *Advent Novena* continues this Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 P.M. This is the time we prepare for the beginning of our new Church year and the birth of our Lord.

**REMEMBER...**

If the weekend Mass is being offered for your loved one please report to an usher. You have the privilege of carrying up the gifts in the offertory procession.

**ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE** meets each Wednesday at 6:00 P.M. at the Parish Center cafeteria.

**BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS: December 4, 7:30 P.M. at Petra House.** Families must be registered parishioners here at OLMV. Call the parish office to register in advance.

**THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: Monday, December 8: Masses on Monday only at 7:00am, 12:00noon and 7:00pm.**

**ADVENT PENCE SERVICE AT OLMV:** Our Annual Penance Service will take place on **Tuesday, December 9 at 7:00pm in the church.** We have a number of visiting priests who will be hearing confessions. Please plan to be present for our brief Penance service and then to receive God's healing graces in the Sacrament of Reconciliation! There will also be confessions on Saturday, December 14: 3:30-4:15pm. *Note: there will be no confessions on Saturday, December 22 or on Saturday, December 28.*

**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE:** OLMV will hold our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe on **Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.** This will be a bi-lingual Mass (Spanish and English). We welcome and invite everyone to join us to Celebrate our Lady.

**MASS OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** This beautiful and hope-filled liturgy will be offered on **Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 A.M.** All who are in need of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the sick are invited to participate and to receive this Sacrament of healing.



**OLMV ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY  
"HELP LINE"  
732-356-2149, option 6  
EN ESPAÑOL: 732-356-2149 ext.1001  
All calls for assistance are confidential.**

**2014 Bishop's Annual Appeal  
Life-Changing Faith**

When we recognize that everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God, how can we not be truly thankful? This sense of gratitude runs deep, compelling us to respond to the Lord's generosity with every ounce of our being and in every way possible. That's stewardship!

*One way to express your gratitude to the Lord is by sharing your financial resources with others through the ministries supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Please consider making a gift today.*

**Evening Prayer in the tradition of Taizé**

**From Darkness to Light**

On Sunday, December 7, at 7:00 P.M. in the church, Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish will celebrate an evening prayer service in the tradition of the ecumenical community in Taizé, France. Set in the soft radiance created by many glowing candles surrounding icons, meditative chants will be interspersed between readings of sacred scripture including prophecies of the coming of the Messiah and reports of the impending birth of Jesus as chronicled in the gospels. Ample amounts of silence will provide time for personal meditation and reflection. The celebration will culminate with communal intercessions in which everyone will have the opportunity to offer silent or public petitions to the Lord. This special Advent prayer service will help you leave the stress of everyday life at the door and feel the calming influence of contemplative communal prayer.

**Come wait in joyful expectation for the birth of our Lord.  
Come pray through song, scripture, and silence.  
Come meditate in the soft glow of candlelight.**



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

Our parish families are invited to attend the Knights of Columbus "Breakfast with Santa" on **Sunday, December 14, 2014.** There is a special family rate of \$25 for families that includes Mom and Dad with all children in the family who are 14 years of age and under. Adult rate is \$8, senior rate is \$7, child rate is \$6.

The Knights look forward to sharing some fabulous food and some real parish fellowship with you. So plan to join Santa and the Knights at the **Church Hall between 9:00 am and 11:30 am.**

**Evening Prayer in Celebration of the YEAR OF  
CONSECRATED LIFE:**

Bishop Bootkoski invites the faithful of the Diocese of Metuchen to join him as he celebrates Evening Prayer to mark the beginning of the "Year of Consecrated Life." "The Year of Consecrated Life" recognizes and celebrates the contribution of the many men and women religious who have served in the Diocese of Metuchen. It will be observed in our diocese beginning on November 23, 2014 and continuing through November 22, 2015. Evening Prayer will be celebrated at Immaculate Conception Parish, 35 Mountain Avenue, Somerville, NJ on Sunday, November 23, 2014 at 4:00pm.