

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

December 7, 2014

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Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low.

-Isaiah 40:4

**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>MON.,</b>	<b>Dec. 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>
7:00	A.M.	Rosemary Walsh r/o Anna Masessa
12:00	P.M.	Jose & Lourdes DelPrado r/o Jay & Daphne DelPrado
7:00	P.M.	Families & Children of OLMV
<b>TUES.,</b>	<b>Dec. 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Advent Weekday</b>
12:00	P.M.	Gina Marie Colaluca r/o Mother
<b>WED.,</b>	<b>Dec. 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Advent Weekday</b>
7:00	A.M.	Parishioners
<b>THURS.,</b>	<b>Dec. 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Advent Weekday</b>
12:00	P.M.	Maria Salerno r/o Children & Grandchildren
<b>FRI.,</b>	<b>Dec. 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Our Lady of Guadalupe</b>
7:00	A.M.	John C. Petriello, Sr. r/o Mayra & Walter Clifford
7:00	P.M.	In Celebration of the OLMV Multicultural Ministries
<b>SAT.,</b>	<b>Dec. 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Advent Weekday</b>
8:00	A.M.	Anthony Masessa r/o Wife, Anna, Theresa & Michelle
11:00	P.M.	Mass of Anointing of the Sick
5:00	P.M.	John Ramagna r/o Paul Hubert
<b>SUN.,</b>	<b>Dec. 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Third Sunday in Advent</b>
8:00	A.M.	The Griguoli Family r/o Emidio & Dolores Griguoli
10:00	A.M.	Gerard Halloran r/o Wife & Children
11:30	A.M.	Frances April r/o Carmella Bradley
1:30	P.M.	Comunidad Hispana

**Week of December 7—14**

***Altar Candles***

Mary & Joe Lucas & Anne Burati r/o Sharon Lucas

***Sanctuary Candles***

Amelia Zuccarelli, for good health, r/o Emily & Joe DeScenza

**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.



**TODAY'S READING'S:**

**First Reading** — The rugged land shall be made a plain; the rough country, a broad valley (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11).

**Psalms** — Lord, let us see your kindness, as grant is your salvation (Psalm 85).

**Second Reading** — Conduct yourselves in holiness, hastening the coming of the day of God (2 Peter 3:8-14).

**Gospel** — I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:1-8).

**“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**

III Joseph J. Chojnowski & Elizabeth D'Addio

**ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE**  
**WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 13—14**

- 5:00 pm— Kevin Meier  
Joe Meier  
Taylor Anthony
- 8:00 am— Jonathon Massarelli  
Tommy McNulty
- 10:00 am— Lorenzo troia  
T. Sviderskis-Carroll  
A. Sviderskis-Carroll
- 11:30 am— Eliza DeGuzman  
Connor Fitzgerald  
Shannon Fitzgerald



“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.

<b>Nov. 22—23</b> .....	\$9,940.00
Hispanic Mass .....	\$321.00
Major Renovations.....	\$910.00
Debt Reduction.....	\$399.00
Campaign for Human Development.....	\$2,607.00
Weekly Parish Expenses.....	\$19,246.00



Today is the Second Sunday of Advent and we continue to wait in joyful expectation for the coming of the Lord at Christmas. Today we light the second candle, and we are aware that the "Light of Christ" is coming closer and shines brightly for all to see!

Today we hear the proclamation of God's messenger: "Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'" We know that it is John the Baptist who has come to announce the impending arrival of God's Chosen One who will come into the world and bring salvation to God's people. The Baptist announces a baptism of repentance and invites those who hear him to come forward for the forgiveness of sins.

How appropriate for us to consider our own relationship with the "Chosen One" of God--that is, our Savior, Jesus Christ! We are invited today to take time out from our busy schedule and to really reflect on how well we have remained faithful to Jesus during these past twelve months. We are invited to prepare for the Coming of the Lord by reflecting on our own mistakes--those sins, large and small, that have pushed us away from our Savior. We are invited today to prepare ourselves by making plans to attend and to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation: recognizing our sins, confessing our sins and entering into a new relationship with God.

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS**

The national annual appeal for the retirement fund for Religious will be conducted next weekend **December 13-14**. This appeal benefits the retirement liability of the nation's religious orders, who have, in fact, not "retired", but have only withdrawn from paid ministries that are now beyond their physical abilities. They do continue to visit the sick, tutor children and volunteer in parishes. Their institutes are in genuine need of assistance to meet the skyrocketing health care costs and providing adequate facilities.

**PLEASE BE GENEROUS WHEN WE COLLECT FOR THE RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS!**

**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**.

**THE KNIGHTS** established the "*Father Blaise Baran Scholarship Fund*" to honor outstanding young adults from our parish as they graduate from high school. Each year before Christmas, the Knights make a number of Christmas related products available which sustain their scholarship program and invite us to actively participate in announcing the presence of the Lord to our community. The Knights thank you for your support. Christmas "Oplatke", buttons & magnets will be available to purchase after weekend Masses.



**My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

Today's Gospel passage informs the reader: John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Indeed, John proclaims: "One mightier than I is coming after me...he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!" John sets the stage for the coming of the Redeemer, inviting all who hear him to a conversion of heart, to a baptism of repentance.

We are reminded that if we are to be truly ready to meet the Lord on Christmas morning, we must spend time in preparation. We must open our hearts and souls to He who is the "Light of the World." We must be watchful--we must "Stay awake" so that we do not miss the Lord when he comes.

Last week we were invited to open our eyes--the eyes of the soul--so that we would see the Lord when he comes. Today we are invited to listen with the ears of the soul. We must listen to the prophet who comes forward to proclaim that the Lord is, indeed, coming. We must listen to the prophet who announces a baptism of forgiveness so that we will be ready.

We are invited to reflect today on those aspects of our lives during the past year that have dulled our senses to the presence of Jesus and that have dulled our faith in Him.

Today at Mass we light a second candle in our Advent Wreath. We realize that Jesus is coming ever more powerfully into our lives. And doesn't the Baptist inform us how we are to begin to prepare to receive Jesus into our lives at Christmas?

The Baptist tells us that we must repent. The first step is to recognize that we have sinned before the Lord. Most of us, hopefully, sin in small ways: we become lazy, a little jealous of the good fortune of others, a little self-indulgent. We tell small lies; we become greedy and resentful. We become mean-spirited and hurt those whom we should love and respect.

Even our smallest sins put a wedge between us and the Lord. Today we are reminded that we must also come forward and repent. Just as John the Baptist's followers entered into a baptism of repentance, since we have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, we need to step forward and share in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

On Tuesday evening Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish will hold it annual Advent Penance Service right here in the church at 7:00pm. After a very short service, a number of priests will be available to hear confessions as we prepare to open our hearts and souls to the presence of the Lord.

There is a saying: "Confession is good for the soul," And it truly is!

What better way to state to the Lord: I am preparing to meet you when you come.

So stay awake, be watchful, come forward for the forgiveness of sins. Like the Baptist: "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...**

**TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE: This Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.** in the Church. Everyone is welcomed!

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

**Our Advent Novena continues this Monday, December 8<sup>th</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.

**ADVENT PENANCE 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 20 or on Saturday, December 27.*

**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.

**Monthly Food Collection for FISH, Inc.** Our next food collection is being taken up the weekend of **December 13—14.**

**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.



**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**

The *Catholic Center at Rutgers University* provides for the spiritual, sacramental and pastoral needs of the Catholic community on campus.

*Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal helps to support this ministry which plays a vital role in forming the next generation for Church leadership.*

- **Thank you** to our parishioners who have already made a gift the Diocese of Metuchen Annual Bishop's Appeal. To date, 226 parish families have pledged almost \$40,000.00 toward our parish goal of \$85,200.00. Bishop Paul thanks all who have already made their yearly gift and encourages all of our families to generously support this appeal which supports so many of our diocesan ministries.



*Sing joyfully to the Lord!*

## **A "Deer Ridge Singers" Christmas Concert at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church, Sunday, December 14 at 7:30 P.M.**

The Deer Ridge Singers will present their Annual Christmas Concert featuring a variety of special arrangements of familiar carols performed with strings and percussion, the chorale will also perform selections by Handel, Rutter, Lauridsen, and others. Tickets are available in advance (908-757-1151) for \$22, or at the door—\$22 for seniors and students, and \$25 general admission. This concert promises to be one not to miss.

**THANK YOU** to the *Ancient Order of Hibernians, Saint Patrick Division, of Somerset County*, for providing a full meal on Thanksgiving Day for **91 families** in need in the areas of Middlesex, Somerset and Hunterdon County.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who participated so generously in our Altar Rosary Annual Used Coat Collection. So many members of our society will benefit from the generosity of the members of our parish!

**THANK YOU** to everyone who has already returned our "Christmas 50/50 Raffle." We need to replace the doors to our church and all proceeds from this raffle will go toward this project! We can't do it without your help!!!

## **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

Christmas Flower Memorial envelopes can be found in the envelope packet, and they will be placed on the Tabernacle Altar during the Christmas Season. Your loved ones, living and deceased, will be remembered at our Christmas Masses and also at Masses celebrated during the Christmas Season.



**Winter Blood Drive – January 11, 2015 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. For more information regarding Medical Eligibility for blood donation please call 1-800-688-0900 or visit their website at [www.nybloodcenter.org](http://www.nybloodcenter.org)