

Our Lady of Mt. Virgin Church

Very Rev. Patrick J. Kuffner, Pastor
Deacon John R. Tietjen
Deacon John Czekaj
Sr. James Xavier Landi S.S.J., Pastoral Minister
Dorothy Zmigrodski, Parish Catechetical Leader
Anita McGinley, Catechetical Assistant
Rives Cassel, Director of Sacred Music
Ellen Fleming, Parish Office Manager
Carol Valente, Pastor's Assistant, Financial Manager
Gabriella Rosales, Parish Secretary, Hispanic Ministry
Ed Kura, Facilities Manager

December 8, 2013

600 Harris Avenue, Middlesex, New Jersey
Parish Office: 732-356-2149 ext. 1001
www.olmv.net

*“Our Lady of Mount Virgin
is a vibrant and welcoming
Roman Catholic Parish that,
guided by the Holy Spirit,
offers opportunities for all to
experience God.”
(from: OLMV Mission
Statement)*



MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturdays: 8:00 a.m. &

5:00 p.m. (Sunday Vigil Mass)

Sundays: 8:00, 10:00 & 11:30 a.m.

1:30 p.m. (Misa en Español)

Weekdays: 7:00 a.m. (M, W, F)

12:00 Noon (Tu, Th)

Holy Days: 7:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

7:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon

ADORATION:

1st and 3rd Friday after the Morning
Mass – until 12:00noon

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m.
and by appointment

MARRIAGES:

Please contact the Parish Office
at least one year in advance.

INFANT BAPTISMS:

The Sacrament of Baptism is
celebrated after the 11:30am
Mass on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd
Sunday of each Month. Parents
must be registered and active
members of the parish, and
must attend a Baptismal
Preparation Class. Please
contact the Parish Office for
further information.

VISITS TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND:

Eucharistic Ministers are pleased to
bring Holy Communion to the
homebound. Please contact the Parish
Office to arrange for the Sacrament of
the Anointing of the Sick or for a
pastoral visit.

APPLICATION:

New members are welcome at
OLMV Parish and must complete an
application form and interview
process. Forms are available at the
parish office.

Rectory Emergency
732-667-8034

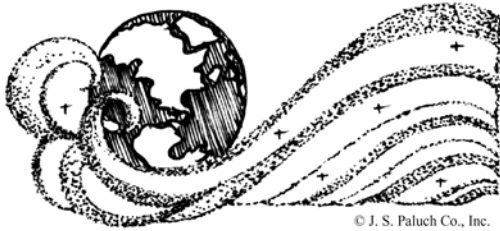
Fax
732-356-1302

Religious Education
732-356-2149 ext. 2010

Adult Faith Formation
732-609-1091

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 8, 2013



The earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea.

-Isaiah 11:9

MASS INTENTIONS

MON.,	Dec. 9th	The Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary
7:00	A.M.	Parishioners
12:00	P.M.	Thomas R. Kachala r/o The Crtightin & Family
7:00	P.M.	Penance Service
TUES.,	Dec. 10th	Advent Weekday
12:00	P.M.	Gina Marie Colaluca r/o Mother, Sheila
WED.,	Dec. 11th	Advent Weekday
7:00	A.M.	George & Veronica Lasko r/o Rosemary & Family
THURS.,	Dec. 12th	Our Lady of Guadalupe
12:00	P.M.	June Klahr r/o Irma Brosky & Family
7:00	P.M.	God's Blessing on the Spanish Ministry
FRI.,	Dec. 13th	Saint Lucy
7:00	A.M.	Anthony Masessa r/o Wife & Daughter
SAT.,	Dec. 14th	Saint John of the Cross
8:00	A.M.	Bernard Salvatore r/o Lucy Bartolucci
5:00	P.M.	Gregory Consentino r/o Daughter, Susan
SUN.,	Dec. 15th	Third Sunday of Advent
8:00	A.M.	Cerne & Grabas Family r/o Diane & Frank Grabas
10:00	A.M.	Gerard Halloran r/o Shirley Halloran & Family
11:30	A.M.	Christopher Roy r/o Ann Butera
1:30	P.M.	Carlos Alberto Cabezas Vargas, Blanca Fonseca Andres Holguin

Religious Education **Dec. 15 Grade 8—CONFIRMATION RETREAT**
10:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M. Mandatory attendance by all 8th grade Confirmation Students and their Sponsors.

Memorials
Week of December 8—15
Altar Candles
 Joe & Mary Lucas & Anne Buratti r/o Sharon Lucas

Sanctuary Candles
 Philip Grinnell r/o Barbi & Douglas Walker

Tabernacle Candles
 Michael P. Coffey & Deceased Family Members r/o Joseph Simmons

2013 Bishop's Annual Appeal Faith, Family, Community

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! It's a way of living in which we are totally immersed in our connectedness with God and with one another. A thread woven through the tapestry of our existence, stewardship is found in our family values, and in our commitment to our parish, diocese and community.

Thank you to all who have already supported the annual Bishop's Appeal with a donation. To date, 217 parishioners have donated or pledged \$45,700.00 toward our goal. Your gift makes the good works of the Diocese of Metuchen possible. Parishioners are invited to review the diocesan website: www.diometuchen.org and learn more about the annual Bishop's Appeal. As you consider your gift, remember that you may be eligible for tax benefits by making your donation before the end of the year. Contact the diocese for more information.

The weekend of Dec. 14 –15



- 5:00 P.M.**— Jonathon Massarelli
Erin Rooney
- 8:00 A.M.**— Alexis Labrada
Taylor Anthony
- 10:00 A.M.**— Eliza DeGuzman
T. Sviderskis-Carroll
- 11:30 A.M.**— James Lawrence
Mikaehla Pineda



ADVENT

Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation.



"You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever." (Psalm 16:11) Jesus has shown us the path to abounding joy. It comes when we give generously of ourselves. It comes when we love and serve one another. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus we don't always recognize Jesus' way. Or maybe we just try to ignore it.

Nov. 23—24.....	\$10,446.00
Phillipine Relief.....	\$4,750.00
Spanish Mass(11/17).....	\$362.00
Major Renovations.....	\$1,757.00
Nov. 30—Dec. 1.....	\$10,693.50
Spanish Mass (Nov. 24).....	\$373.00
Renovation Fund.....	\$2,791.00
Weekly Parish Expenses.....	\$19,246.00

As we look forward to your coming at Christmas, we ask you to come now and turn us into instruments of your mercy, instruments of your peace.



Our parish families are invited to attend the **K of C Breakfast with Santa** on Sunday, December 8, 2013. Santa will be present and there will be coloring books and crayons for the children. There is a special price for families that includes Mom and Dad and all the children under 14 years of age for \$28. The single rate is \$9 for adults, \$8 for seniors, and \$6 for children. The Knights look forward to sharing some great food and real parish fellowship. Plan to join Santa and the Knights here at OLMV between 9:00 am and 11:30 am at the Parish Center.



Plan Ahead: 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 7—8, 2013**. You may wish to include a receipt in gifts of clothing or slippers. Volunteers will sort, bag and deliver the gifts on December 9, 2013 after the 7:00 am Mass. We look forward to your generous contribution once more. This year we will again be donating gifts to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, homeless shelters and nursing homes in the area.

MASS FOR OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE:

Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church will hold our 2nd Annual Mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Thursday, December 12, 2013. This will be a bi-lingual Mass (Spanish and English), and our new portrait of Our Lady of Guadalupe which hangs in the Blessed Virgin Chapel will be “enthroned during the Mass. We acknowledge, with gratitude, *The Valdez Family* who donated this beautiful portrait of Our Lady of Guadalupe to our parish.

Winter Bible Study Beginning Soon!!!

Join us for a 6 session program (plus celebration) as we deepen our discipleship and more fully **EMBRACE THE KINGDOM!** Both morning and evening sessions are offered for your convenience: Wednesday at 10 AM or 7:00 PM in Petra House. Come to either the evening or morning sessions, which begin on January 15 (schedules are on bulletin boards around the church). All are welcome, but **you must pre-register and there is a \$12 book fee.** Please come to the parish office to register on/before January 6. Books will be given out at registration so you can prepare for the Introductory Session!

Food Collection for FISH, Inc. Next Collection will be **December 14—15**. FISH thanks the generosity of our parishioners. Please be generous as we help those who are less fortunate share in our Christmas blessings!

LIVING NATIVITY: Experience the sights and sounds of Christmas at the Middlebush Reformed Church Tenth Annual Living Nativity (South Middlebush and Amwell Roads, Somerset, NJ 08873), Fri. Dec. 13, 7—9 pm and Sat. Dec. 14, 6—9 pm. Step into the story of Christ’s birth by seeing the manger scene with costumed characters and live animals (including a camel!) and listening to Christmas carols. Refreshments will be served. For more information: 732-873-2776.



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We, like John the Baptist, await the “Coming of the Lord.” During the time of preparation, John appeared and began to preach in the desert. He announced a baptism of repentance for sins and was clear that his purpose was to prepare his followers for the one, “greater than I” who was to come.

We have now completed the first week of our preparation to meet the Lord. We look joyfully to meet the Lord as the Baby Jesus on Christmas morning. We also look with hopeful expectation to that “second coming,” that incredible experience when we hope to meet the Lord in the “world to come!”

During this special time of Advent, we are invited to also consider the “one who is greater than I” as we enter into that experience of joyful anticipation and preparation.

I think that in today’s passage in Matthew’s Gospel, we are invited to reflect on the need to open our hearts and souls to the “coming of the Lord” by also entering into a time of repentance from sin and, by our openness to “new life, become ready to enter into the presence of Jesus who will share with us the “Holy Spirit and fire!”

Today’s gospel passage certainly invites us to consider both the immediate preparation to meet the baby, Jesus. We are also invited to take some time aside so we can “look within” and examine our daily lives in terms of our readiness to meet the Lord at the end of our earthly lives.

Isn’t this what “joyful expectation” really is all about? We do look with incredible joy to celebrate once again the reality that the Son of God came to us as a small baby, who was born to a poor woman, who had only the breath of animals to warm him against the chill of the night, and who had only lowly shepherds to welcome him into our world. Don’t we also look with joy and anticipation to our salvation in the Lord when, hopefully, we enter heaven after having spent our lives here on earth?

Today we spend just a little time considering Jesus as our Savior---one who is proclaimed so powerfully by John the Baptist as the “one who is to come,” and as the one who is “greater than I.” And Jesus is our Savior. We remember even the silly saying of a few years ago: “Jesus is the reason for the season.” Silly, but powerful all the same: Jesus, who entered the human condition as a small child so he could identify with us and become the cause of our salvation!

We continue now our time of joyful expectation and great hope. We anticipate the coming of Jesus into our lives---into our hearts and souls---and we prepare to meet him on Christmas morning. Today we are reminded that we must prepare and be ready to greet him when he comes. Let us, like the followers of John the Baptist, repent our sins and prepare to share in the Holy Spirit and fire---the true and eternal presence of the Lord among us.

In peace and prayer,
Father Pat

PARISH PENANCE SERVICE: Monday, December 9, 7:00 P.M. in the church. We will have a number of priests available to hear confessions in Spanish as well as in English.



**THE DEANERY SCHOOL:
HOLY SAVIOR ACADEMY**

For information, please contact the school administration at 908 - 822 - 5890 or log on to the school's web page at: Holy SaviorAcademy.com

SYNOD ON MARRIAGE:

Please read Bishop Bootkoski's letter and take the survey on marriage both our Bishop and Pope welcome your input as the Church prepares for the Synod on Marriage.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER Thank you to our many generous parishioners who support our annual Christmas Flower collection. Thanks to your generosity, Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church always looks beautiful as we celebrate Christmas, and also as we come together to celebrate the presence of the Lord at Mass each weekend during the year. Flower remembrances will be placed on the Tabernacle altar during the Christmas season, and loved ones will be remembered by our priests during Mass each day.

"REBUILD OUR CHURCH" RAFFLE:

Congratulations to Sal Failla who was the November winner of the "Rebuild our Church" Raffle. Thanks, Sal for your support of our monthly raffle and for your support of Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish. December raffle tickets are available in the parish office.

**THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

Mass will be celebrated on Monday, December 9
at 7:00 am and 12:00 Noon.

**CAN YOU SAVE YOUR MARRIAGE?
RETOUVAILLE—A LIFELINE FOR
TROUBLE MARRIAGES**

If your marriage has become unloving and uncaring, or if your relationship has grown cold or distant, if you are thinking of separation or divorce, or if you are already separated or divorced, but (both of you) wish to try again—then the RETOUVAILLE program may help you.

The next program begins the weekend of February 28—March 2, 2014. All inquires are confidential. For further information please call the Family Life Office (days) 732-562-1990 ext. 1624.



**OLMV ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
"HELP LINE"
732-356-2149, option 6**

All calls for assistance are confidential.

VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM:

donate a running or non-running vehicle to help the less fortunate.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference of Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish has made available Spiritual Donation Cards, found in baskets at the entrances of the church. A donation to the Society may be made in honor of a loved one, living or deceased. Please fill out the envelope, place your donation in it and leave it in the parish office or the collection basket. The lovely card may be sent to the person of your choice. 100% of your donation is used to assist those in need in our community. Your support is truly appreciated.

Evening Prayer in the tradition of Taizé

From Darkness to Light

On Sunday, December 8, at 4:00 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

MAJOR RENOVATIONS' FUND:

To date, over \$34,000.00 has been raised through the Major Renovation's Fund initiative. Because of the generosity of our parishioners to this and other initiatives, Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish has begun the replacement of the old boiler system in the Parish Center. The new boiler should be operational in the near future. The next projects to be tackled as funds become available will be the replacement of the Church sound system and the replacement of our old air-cooling system. Thank you to all who support Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish!!!

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 requested for the recently deceased: Steven Richter and Dorothy Giammarco.

"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 which is used to support their scholarship program: "Father Blaise Baran Scholarship Fund". The Knights of Columbus are also selling **"Keep Christ in Christmas"** magnets. These can also be purchased in the Parish Office and after all weekend Masses during Advent for \$5.00 each or 2 for \$8.00.



OLMV'S "GLADIATOR" BASKETBALL:

Our parish basketball teams began the new season on December 7 in the Diocese of Metuchen basketball league. Teams for boys and girls in 5th through 8th grades are participating this year, and this is attributed to the large number of Catholic youth, active in the Religious Education program in this parish. Our program is grateful to Father Pat and his continued interest in the activities of our parish youth.

INFORMATION SHEET

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

911166: Our Lady of Mount Virgin
600 Harris Ave.
Middlesex, NJ

PHONE

732-356-2149

CONTACT PERSON

Karen Gallagher

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