

MASS INTENTIONS

MON.,	Dec., 21st	Advent Weekday
7:00	A.M.	Joseph Butera r/o Anne & Family
TUES.,	Dec., 22nd	Late Advent Weekday
12:00	P.M.	Lisa Harrity r/o Kevin & Alex
WED.,	Dec., 23rd	Late Advent Weekday
7:00	A.M.	Parishioners
THURS.,	Dec., 24th	Late Advent Weekday
4:00	P.M.	Charles & Margaret Sebastian r/o Children, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren
7:00	P.M.	Amelia Zuccarelli in Celebration of her 100 th Birthday r/o Parish Family
12:00	A.M.	Philip Murray Grinnell r/o Grinnell Tarbous Family
FRI.,	Dec., 25th	The Nativity of the Lord
8:00	A.M.	Deceased members of the Efinger Family r/o Family
10:00	P.M.	Deceased Members of the Kuffner-Lynch Family r/o Father Pat
12:00	P.M.	Rose DelBusso r/o Daughter Clara Perone & Dolores Barile & Family
SAT.,	Dec., 26th	St. Stephen, The first Martyr
8:00	A.M.	NO AM MASS
5:00	P.M.	Bernard Cossi r/o Natalie Guibleo
SUN.,	Dec., 27th	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
8:00	A.M.	Frank DeRosa & Consentino Families r/o Mary DeRosa & Son
10:00	A.M.	Lorenzo Troia r/o Tony, Carol Troia & Family
11:30	A.M.	Michelle Healey Knehr r/o Healey & Knehr Family
1:30	P.M.	Ninos y familias Comunidad Hispana

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 20—27

Altar Candles

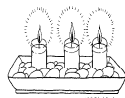
Rose DelBusso r/o Wife, Clara Perone & Daughter

Sanctuary Candles

Christopher E. Roy r/o The Roy Family

Altar Bread & Wine

The Stockton & Tierney Family r/o Family



“Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.” (PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7)

St. Paul reminds us that our God is an abundant God, the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. When we trust that God will take care of us, it is easier for us to share what we have been given.

GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

Dec. 12-13.....	\$10,616.00
Major Renovations.....	\$2,254.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$2,577.00
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

- **Remembering Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish at Christmas:**

As we approach Christmas and the end of the year, we consider our gift to Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish. Very often it is in financially advantageous for us to make tax-deductible donations to our Parish as well as to other worthy organizations and ministries. As we approach the end of the year, sometimes there are also particular tax advantages associated with the donation of stocks, bonds, jewelry, and real property, etc., in addition to cash contributions. Please contact our pastor, Fr. Pat, if you have questions concerning a particular gift to our church.

- **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**.

A letter from our Pastor

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.” These are the words that Saint Luke attributes to Saint Elizabeth when she encounters the Blessed Virgin Mary who has rushed to visit her cousin. Elizabeth is much further along in her pregnancy than Mary, so Mary travels to assist her older cousin as she prepares to give birth to a son---a son who will be John the Baptist!

We learn as we consider the “Infancy Narratives” of Saint Luke’s Gospel that Elizabeth’s child, still in the womb, senses the power of God who has enlivened Mary. John “leaps for joy” as he encounters his cousin for the first time----both babies still in the womb, waiting to be born.

Luke invites us to consider today the incredible awe and wonder that the two women must have experienced as they shared with each other the special encounter each had with God’s messenger. Both will give birth to sons who are “destined” for greatness--greatness in sharing God’s goodness in the world. John will announce the Word coming among the people, Jesus will be that very Word, alive and present in the human condition.

Elizabeth’s words to Mary as they first encounter each other in Luke’s Gospel, are an expression of Mary’s trust in God: “Blessed are you who believed.” Luke invites us as we continue our own time of joyful preparation in anticipation of our own encounter with the Lord to also “believe” in the power of God’s message as God speaks to our hearts.

More than anything else, we are invited to consider Mary’s willingness to walk always in the presence of her God. She readily admits that she doesn’t understand everything that God is asking of her, but without hesitation, she readily agrees because she can only say “yes” to God. Mary’s “yes” is also her motivation to go forward and assist her cousin. She is somehow “compelled” as an outgrowth of her belief and trust in God’s messenger. Mary cannot say “yes” and then not act. Mary’s “yes” to serve as the vehicle for the “Divine Son” to enter the world is also a “yes” to become a vehicle of the ongoing expression of the “Divine Word” in the human condition.

As we consider today’s Gospel passage, we are invited to consider our willingness to open our hearts and souls to the Word of God that speaks to each one of us. Just as it was for Mary and also for Elizabeth, so we too are invited to “believe and trust” in God’s Word. And because of Mary’s “yes,” we know that the Word is, indeed, Jesus---our Lord and Savior.

We are asked today as we enter into the final days of our Advent preparation to examine our own willingness to believe: to believe in the presence of God in our daily lives, to believe in the truth of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior who is ever-present in the world, to believe in the grace of the Blessed Virgin Mary whose “yes” we imitate.

We prepare with great joy and anticipation for the coming of the Lord. We are called to believe in His presence and to trust in his awesome power in our lives!

In peace and prayer,
Father Pat



*Father Pat, Father Mark,
Deacon John T, Deacon John C,
Deacon Tom S, Sister James,
Mrs. Zmigrodski, Mr. Rives Cassel
and our parish staff wish our
parishioners a most blessed Christmas
and a grace-filled New Year.*

*“When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the princes are home,
when the moon is dancing with the sun
-the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost, to heal the broken
to feed the hungry, to be outspoken,
to always love and never hate,
to show the world, how GOD is Great!”*

“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 for one or two for \$5.00 which is used to support their scholarship program.**



Life Choices’ babies need their bottles!

Please return baby bottles to the Church as soon as possible. Bottles can be placed in the white collection boxes in the Mary Chapel.

All of the funds raised will be used to assist families.
Thank you so much!

Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy



In *Misericordiae Vultus*, Pope Francis says, “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 prepared 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, and opportunities for social action. A parish calendar listing these opportunities will be available in the near future. To begin our celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, our parish participation will be formalized with a proclamation at the beginning of all Christmas Masses.

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



Thank you to everyone who came out and supported the Youth Group Babysitting Service. We would like to thank all the Middle School and High School Students (and parents) of our Youth Group that offered their time during their busy schedules to offer this helpful opportunity for our busy parents. Please look for other services to be offered to the OLMV community from our Youth Group in 2016. The Youth Group meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 6-7.

Our little hands of the Children's Liturgy group have been very busy each month with different service projects. In October, they created 90 table settings for our local soup kitchen to use when serving meals. In November, they created 75 Christmas cards for recovering military personnel. In December, they created Christmas ornaments for the Christmas tree located in the vestibule of our Church. Please check the bulletin for Children's Liturgy dates each month.

LAST CALL for Winter Faith-Sharing Sessions!

Join us for a 6 session program as we reflect on the theme of God’s MERCY, using the words of Scripture and the writings of Pope Francis. We offer both morning and evening sessions for your convenience: Wednesdays at 10:00 AM or 7:00 PM in Petra House. Come to either sessions which begin on Jan. 6 (schedules are on the bulletin boards around the church). We are extending our registration date to Monday, December 21 in the parish office. All are welcome but we need to order books so you can prepare for the first session. Join us in this great way to participate in the **YEAR OF MERCY!**

THE DEANERY SCHOOL- HOLY SAVIOR ACADEMY



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

Holy Savior Academy is 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.



A 1-1 Catechist is needed for Tuesdays from now until May for a 4th grade student. Please contact Dorothy Zmigrodski (732-356-2149 x2011) 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.

The OLMV Book Club met and discussed the book “The Shack” by Wm. P. Young. Fr. Pat was our special guest during the meeting. Our next meeting is January 25th where we will discuss the book “Until Lily: The First in the Trilogy” by Sherry Boas. Please call or e-mail Dorothy Zmigrodski at dzmigrodski@olmv.net if you would like further information or would like to join our group.

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:

◆ **Advent Novena:** Monday, December 21, 7:00 pm in the church.

◆ **Christmas Flowers:**

Christmas Flower Remembrance envelopes are included in the envelope packet. All donations are used to defray the cost of flowers at the altar and around the church chapels during the Christmas season. Thank you to our parishioners whose generosity makes it possible for our church to reverence the Christ-child in such a beautiful manner each year.



◆ **Thank you** to Mary Czachur for her diligence in organizing our annual “Jesse Tree” program. Over 500 gifts as well as more than 100 gift cards were sorted, organized, packaged and delivered to a number of charities last Monday morning. Thank you to Mary’s faithful crew who organize this program every year and to everyone who shows up to assist with the sorting and delivery. Special thanks and recognition to our wonderful and generous parishioners.

◆ **Thank you** also the John Sweeney and his crew who deliver to FISH the food that is donated each month. Again, thank you to our generous parishioners who support FISH each month with donations of food and gift cards.

◆ **Thank you** also to one of OLMV’s truly generous parishioners for a Christmas donation of \$5,000.00 to our “Major Renovations Fund.” God bless you for your generosity.

◆ **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.

◆ **Retrouvaille:**

Retrouvaille is a program inviting couples who are experiencing trouble and stress in their marriage. The next program begins the weekend of February 5—February 7, 2016. All inquires are confidential. For further information please call the Family Life Office 732-562-1990 x. 1705.

Thursday, December 24th-Vigil

4:00 P.M. (a Special Liturgy with our parish children.)

7:00 P.M.

12:00 Midnight Mass

(Lessons and Carols at 3:30, 6:30 and 11:30 P.M.)

Due to the large crowds who attend Mass on Christmas, the last Mass will be celebrated at **12:00 noon instead of 11:30 A.M.** Please note this change.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday, December 25th

8:00 A.M. 10:00 A.M. 12:00 noon

Mary, Mother of God

Thursday, December 31st -

7:00 P.M. Vigil Mass

Friday, January 1st

9:00 A.M. 12:00 noon

REMINDERS -

December 24th- No 12:00 Noon Mass

December 28th-30th- Mass at **9:00 A.M. (M-W)**
(Tues) 12:00 Noon only

December 31st- Mass at 12:00 Noon and 7:00 P.M.

January 1st- Mass at 9:00 A.M. & 12:00 Noon

January 4th- resume regular daily schedule of
7:00 A.M. (M-W-F)
12:00 Noon (Tu-Th)

PLAN AHEAD... The parish Office will be closed

Thursday, December 24th and Friday, December 25th.

2015 Bishop’s Annual Appeal

Grace, Mercy & Peace

As Christmas nears, you are asked to make a special effort to remember the 2015 Bishop’s Annual Appeal. It is a gift that brings the **Grace, Mercy & Peace** of Christ to thousands of people throughout the Diocese of Metuchen. Please consider making a gift today.

Annual Bishop’s Appeal:

So far, **Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parishioners** have donated or pledged \$44,300 which is 61% of our goal to the 2015 Bishop’s Annual Appeal. Thank you to the many generous parishioners who have already responded to Bishop Bootkoski’s appeal for support for the good work of our diocese. Please contact the Office of Stewardship and Development at 732-562-2431 for questions about giving to the annual appeal.

Boletín en Español
Domingo 13 de Diciembre del 2015
III Domingo de Adviento

**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 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!



Atención

Comunidad Hispana!!!

Les invitamos a reservar el **20 de Diciembre** para una Misa especial y un compartir Navideno - Villancicos cantados por los niños de la parroquia.



Todos los niños interesados en participar lo pueden hacer anotándose después de Misa con Ana y Joaquin o pueden sus padres llamar durante horas de oficina para registrarlos. Será un momento muy lindo para toda la Comunidad entera en estas festividades!

**MAS INFORMACIÓN POR VENIR EN
FUTUROS BOLETINES!**



NOVENA DE ADVIENTO EN ESPAÑOL:

LES INVITAMOS A REZAR EL SANTO ROSARIO A LA 1:00 PM EN LA IGLESIA TODOS LOS DOMINGOS.
ESPERAMOS PODER CONTAR CON SU PRECENCIA!!!

**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.
- **Collecta de Abrigos:** La collecta de abrigos, guantes y bufandas que estén en buen estado será el fin de semana del 28 y 29 de Noviembre. Las personas que deseen donar los pueden traer apartir del Lunes 23 de Noviembre y dejarlos en el el “Cuarto de los Niños en la Iglesia” o “Cry Room”.

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!