

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Sunday, December 17, 2017
Third Sunday of Advent



Served by:

Father Abuchi F. Nwosu, *Pastor*
fatherabuchi@aol.com
Father Peter Oddo, *Weekend Assistant*
Deacon Anthony Barile
Deacon Edward Muller
Dan Salvatore, *Coordinator of Religious Education*
Matthew Arnold, *Music Director*
msarnold@udel.edu
Caroline Mazzola, *Secretary*
Ann Johnson, *Secretary*

Parish Office

203 Newton-Swartzwood Road
Newton, NJ 07860
Hours: 9:00am-1:00pm
Phone: 973-383-3566
Fax: 973-383-3831
mtcarmelswartzwood@gmail.com
www.olmcswartzwood.org

Religious Education Office

Hours: 9:00am-1:00pm
Phone: 973-579-2355
olmcccd@gmail.com

Weekend Masses

Saturday: 5:00pm
Sunday: 7:30am / 9:00am / 11:00am

Daily Masses

Monday-Saturday: 8:30am (except Wed.)
Wednesday: 7:00pm

First Friday Mass: 2:00pm
@Homestead Nursing Home
Civic Holidays: 9:00am
Holy Days: 8:30am / 7:00pm

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday 9:00am-12:00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 4:15pm-4:45pm

Sacraments of Baptism, Marriage, & Anointing of the Sick

Please contact the office to arrange.

OLMC Joy Club (Just Older Youth)

Patricia Cholasta
973-534-7733

Youth Group

Heather Falotico
olmcyg@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus, Council 9920

Terrence O'Connor, Grand Knight

"Happy Holidays" vs "Merry Christmas"

Holidays are different from Christmas. As a matter of fact, Muslims, atheist and even pagans, can celebrate Happy Holidays. However, as Christians, we have a holiday to celebrate Christmas joyfully. It is beautiful to have Christ at the center of a Merry Christmas. The special gift we have at Christmas is Christ who came to dwell among us. So, "Christ is the one and only gift at the center of a Merry Christmas who is lacking from Happy Holidays. If we are not finding our joy and happiness in God we are under an illusion and sooner or later God will give us the painful grace of allowing that illusion to give way to reality. God is the answer. Only in God can we find true joy and lasting happiness."

This third week of Advent calls us to rejoice and be glad as we wait for the coming of the Lord. In the first reading, Isaiah proclaimed this joy to the people who returned from the exile but awaiting restoration. Isaiah broadcasted glad tidings and a year of favor to the people. He goes further to say gladness will also be extended to the brokenhearted, the captives, the prisoners and the poor. In the second reading, St. Paul urges Thessalonian community, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." We are called to "rejoice always." But how can we rejoice always? It is only when we put our trust and hope in God. And even in difficult times when there is a storm at the surface, we can "rejoice always" because we trust God will accompany us and protect us.

In the gospel, while people wait joyfully for the coming of the Lord, John the Baptist becomes the herald of the good news. He identifies himself as the voice crying out in the wilderness to testify and to prepare the people to welcome the light-the Lord. John humbly admits he is not the one that they joyfully wait for "but there is one among you who you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." Our Christmas homes are already decorated; people are buying gifts for family and loved ones. By decorating our homes and offering Christmas gifts, we make Christ present to the people. As we come close to Christmas, may we remember Christ is the only reason and gift for the Christmas. Yes, we are going to have a happy holiday but since the Christ is the center of this holiday, we can wish our family, loved ones, friends and others, 'Merry Christmas' and not a 'happy holiday.'

—Fr. Abuchi

Mass Intentions for the Week**Saturday, December 16**

SIR 48:1-4, 9-11 / MT 17:9A, 10-13

8:30am Bernice Sammarco

5:00pm Lorraine Virga

Sunday, December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent

IS 61:1-2A, 10-11 / 1 THES 5:16-24 / JN 1:6-8, 19-28

7:30am Don K.U.

9:00am John DeCoursey

11:00am Farris DeRoma, Sr.

Monday, December 18

JER 23:5-8 / MT 1:18-25

8:30am Intentions of Brian and Tina Johnson

Tuesday, December 19

JGS 13:2-7, 24-25A / LK 1:5-25

8:30am Intentions of Callistus

Wednesday, December 20

IS 7:10-14 / LK 1:26-38

7:00pm Intentions of Felicia

Thursday, December 21

SG 2:8-14 or ZEP 3:14-18A / LK 1:39-45

8:30am For Peace in the World

Friday, December 22

1 SM 1:24-28 / LK 1:46-56

8:30am For the Safety of Travelers

Saturday, December 23

MAL 3:1-4, 23-24 / LK 1:57-66

8:30am Intentions of Frank Roehrig

5:00pm James Corcoran and Frederick Manak

Sunday, December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16 / ROM 16:25-27 / LK 1:26-38

7:30am

9:00am

11:00am

Christmas Eve**Please Remember and Pray For the Following**

Ann Bott, Ralph Bozza, Walter & Concetta Brock Jr, Bradley Burchfield, Dominic Bongiorno, Joseph Colon, Terry Comer, Fr. Angelus Croce, Carmine Curulli, Ingrid Diaz, Kara Deserto, Doug Ernst Sr, Linda Flynn, Thomasina Gebhard, Richard Hennings, Ava Kljajic, Bruce Konar, Joshua Koontz, Alex Krucinski, Kimberly Lane, Kden LeoGrande, Elizabeth Lacovara, Pete Mahler, Maria Mallozzi, Mary Jo Manno, Deacon Charles Mathias, Susanne Martone, Brett Mershon, Mary Ellen Nienstedt, Sister Peggy Noone, Stephen Osborn, Margie Palazzo, Jason Parker, Sr., Jerome Pasternak, Lorraine Paxton, Ellie Prakopcyk, Owen Primavera, Connie Pyne, Peter F. Reynolds, Carol Rock, Bishop Frank Rodimer, Colleen Romano, Linda Ross, Joan Royer, Rose Marie Sciascia, Carole Salvatore, John Samscock, James Scales, Diane Scarince, Greg Schmiditty, Gloria Shope, Carole Sisco, Debbie Smith, Nancy Snook, Stephanie, Richie Sorce, Andrew Sorce, Michael Sugar, Dale Swoboda, Roberta Treptau, David & Vince Ventresca, Brooke Zaleski

A GOOD STEWARD**Sunday, December 10****\$3257.50****Retiring Fund for Religious****\$1308.00****Thank you for your generosity!****SANCTUARY LAMP**

*This Week The Sanctuary Lamp Burns
for the Intentions of
Children of Corcoran and
Zaleski Families*

**WOMEN AND MEN OF THE ARMED FORCES**

We ask God the Father, through the intercession of St. Michael the Archangel, to protect all the men and women in our Armed



Forces. May they be brought back safely to those whom they love: Larisa Furs, US Navy; Lt. Jason Gieniewski, U.S. Army; Pvt. Daniel Michael Mobilio, Army; Captain Richi M. Pazdzierski, US Army; Captain Jane Petrick, Army; Lt. Daniel T. Pevarnik, Jr., National Guard; Captain Cheryl Ryan, US Army; Seaman Recruit Tyler Joseph Salonia; Michael Valeich, Staff Sergeant; Pvt. Zachary

Wharton, Robert Williams, Airman

Need for Laptops

If you have a good working laptop you do not need anymore, please consider donating it to us. We will give them to the needy families.

NEW HYMNALS

Thank you so much for your support! It will make our liturgies more beautiful. The total cost of the new hymnals is \$5,796.91. To date, we've received donations in the amount of \$2,886.30. And the proceeds from the sales of the Christmas trees are \$1,032.56.

FLOWER DEDICATION TO JESUS

As we have done in the past we are inviting you do to something concrete for Jesus Christ. As a sign of your dedication to Jesus we would like each family of the parish (or each member of the family) to bring a single flower to place in front of the manger. We will have a basket in front of the manger so before Christmas mass please lay your flower in the basket as a pleasing sign to Jesus.

A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR YOU

Who am I? Why am I here? We all grapple with the questions from time to time. When you come to Mass this Christmas, you'll receive a special gift from our parish that will help you find the answers so you can start living the amazing life God created you to live.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATION

If you would like to donate a Christmas flower in memory of a loved one, the flower donation envelopes can be found at the doors of the church.



NEW SONG BOOK

The new song books have arrived. It's not too late to purchase a book to donate to the Church in Memory of a Loved One. The dedication will be placed inside the cover. The cost is \$18.50 or \$30.00 for the Choir book.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The **Knights of Columbus** are hosting a raffle for a custom Handcrafted shadow box commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the dedication of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel church by Bishop Lawrence B. Casey, Bishop of Paterson, on July 2nd, 1967. Handcrafted by the Knights from solid oak church pews obtained during the OLMC garage clean-out in the fall of 2016. Featuring votive candles and music box, this well-built shadow box is a true representation of the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel church community, and will be enjoyed by your family for generations to come. Tickets are \$10.00 each and available at the side door of the church after mass.

PARISH LEGACY GIFTS

Many thanks to some parishioners who have graciously remembered the parish in their will.

Lord reminds us of the abundant blessings that come from a generous heart. "Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."

When you give your time, talent and financial resources to your parish, it strengthens our faith community in so many wonderful ways!

Did you know that there are also opportunities to make a legacy gift to Our Lady of Mount Carmel that will touch the lives of parishioners for generations to come? Please prayerfully consider remembering our parish in your will and estate plans. For more information, call our parish at 973-383-3566 or contact our Diocesan Development Office at 973-777-8818, ext. 215 for further assistance and to discuss options that might work for you. Thank you so much for all you do for Our Lady of Mount Carmel—now and in the future!

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

This year the liturgical celebration for the weekend of December 23rd & 24th is completely different from Christmas liturgy. According to Bishop Serratelli's letter to the priests, he states,

"December 24th, 2017 is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. *The Table of Liturgical Days According to their Order of Precedence (cf., **The Roman Missal: Universal Norms on the Calendar and the Liturgical Year, Chapter II, "Table of Liturgical Days," Section I, 1)** ranks all Four Sundays of Advent directly following the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord."*

"The Sundays of Advent are essential in the year of grace. Although the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls this year on December 24th, traditionally called, "Christmas Eve," the Fourth Sunday of Advent must be celebrated on December 24th during the day. No Mass of Christmas may be celebrated on December 24th before four o'clock in the afternoon."

"All Masses celebrated before four o'clock in the afternoon on December 24, 2017 are the Masses of the Fourth Sunday of Advent with the Orations and Readings of the Fourth Sunday of Advent being used."

"While the calendar presents a challenge this year, Advent in its completeness remains a time when we pray," "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Attending Mass on the weekend of December 23 & 24 does not by any means fulfill your Christmas obligation. The ideal is to attend the weekend Mass (4th week of Advent) and also attend the Christmas Mass which; begins in our parish on December 24th at 6pm and on December 25th at 7:30am, 9am and 11am. I trust as a good Catholic you will continue to do the right thing.



ONLINE GIVING OPTION

FOR WEEKLY AND ONE TIME GIFTS

Enrolling in Online Giving today is a great way to ensure your gifts to Our Lady of Mt Carmel are received even when you are away or traveling.

Please visit: <https://olmcswartwood.churchgiving.com>

Many thanks for your continued tremendous support to our parish. May God richly bless you always.