

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Sunday, January 7, 2018
The Epiphany of the Lord



Served by:

Father Abuchi F. Nwosu, *Pastor*
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Father Peter Oddo, *Weekend Assistant*
Deacon Anthony Barile
Deacon Edward Muller
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Ann Johnson, *Secretary*

Parish Office

203 Newton-Swartzwood Road
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Hours: 9:00am-1:00pm
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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

The Journey of the Magi from the East

“Epiphany” means “revelation” or quite literally, “shining forth.” In the larger Christian family, Epiphany celebrates our Lord’s gift to all the world.” It is the day we not only celebrate God’s manifestation to the gentiles but also recall the time when Magi-three kings — popularly called “wise men”— brought priceless gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the infant Christ. The prophecy of Second Isaiah from the First Reading: “All from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense and proclaiming the praises of the Lord” is fulfilled in the Magi’s long journey from the east, and their presentation of the treasures and gifts to the newborn child.

Matthew’s gospel narrates the travel of three kings from an unnamed land in the east, an itinerary that first stopped in Jerusalem looking for the newborn king. They secure an audience with Herod asking, “Where is he born ‘King of Jews’? We have seen his star in the east and have come to worship him.” This information was not what Herod wanted to hear! In fact, the news of a new born king will set off an alarm bell for king Herod. After an inquiry, the kings leave Herod following that star and come to a house in Bethlehem and there present their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. But being warned in a troubling dream about Herod’s treacherous plan, they journeyed home “by another way.”

The wise men gave a treasurable gift to Christ. Of course, they were completely single-minded and sincere in their gift-giving. Their gifts were expressions of their respect, reverence, gratitude and love for the child. Their gifts were given with no strings attached, no conditions, and no mixed motives. “The story of the visit to the Crib by the Wise Men is a story of giving and receiving. It speaks of how gifts express love between persons, and of how gifts given with love bind people together. But it is not simply about the giving of things (in this case gold, frankincense, and myrrh) but the giving of persons, the sharing of selves.” Our Christmas gift giving practice could have originated from the Magi offering gifts to Christ. There is immense joy in giving and receiving a gift. However, Christmas must not just be about giving presents. It should also be about *being present*, i.e., sharing ourselves with warmth, affection and kindness to our family and people. Like the three kings, we should give with no condition but only with pure love. The Magi offered their time and valuable gifts to Christ. What can you offer to Christ this 2018?

—Fr. Abuchi

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, January 6

1 JN 5:5-13 / MK 1:7-11

8:30am Valerie DeRiddel

5:00pm Cornelio Odorizzi

Sunday, January 7 - The Epiphany of the Lord

IS 60:1-6 / EPH 3:2-3A, 5-6 / MT 2:1-12

7:30am Intentions of Les Humienny

9:00am Wilma Jones

11:00am Bridget Bauress

Monday, January 8 - The Baptism of the Lord

IS 42:1-4, 6-7 or IS 55:1-11 / MK 1:7-11

8:30am Intentions of Deacon Tony Barile

Tuesday, January 9

1 SM 1:9-20 / MK 1:21-28

8:30am Intentions of Deacon Ed Muller

Wednesday, January 10

1 SM 3:1-10, 19-20 / MK 1:29-39

7:00pm Intentions of Ron Johnson

Thursday, January 11

1 SM 4:1-11 / MK 1:40-45

8:30am Justina Muller

Friday, January 12

1 SM 8:4-7, 10-22A / MK 2:1-12

8:30am Recovery of the Addicts

Saturday, January 13

1 SM 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1 / MK 2:13-17

8:30am Protection of the Unborn

5:00pm Intentions of Maureen Foley

Sunday, January 14

1 SM 3:3B-10, 19 / 1 COR 6:13C-15A, 17-20 / JN 1:35-42

7:30am

9:00am May Ochner

11:00am

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, Les Humienny, 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, Virginia Zaleski

A GOOD STEWARD

Sunday, December 31

\$3,491.00

***There will be a second collection the weekend of January 13 & 14 for the Diocesan Assessment.**

Thank you for your generosity!

SANCTUARY LAMP

This Week The Sanctuary Lamp Burns for Marie Scalera



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



MARCH FOR LIFE

This year, the Annual March for Life will be held on Friday, January 19th. Our Lady Queen of Peace will be sponsoring a bus to Washington. Bus will depart at 6 am and the cost is \$25 per person. For more information or to sign up, please call 973-948-3185.

NEW SONG BOOK

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 \$18.90 or \$30.00 for the Choir book.

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>

JOY CLUB

Meeting of OLMC JOY (just older youth) Club will meet on Thursday, January 18 at 12pm. Dues \$5, includes lunch. Sign up sheets at door for food head count or contact Patricia (973) 534-7733.

SICK AND HOMEBOUND

Anyone who is homebound or sick and needs a priest, please call the office to make arrangements — (973) 383-3566.

BLESSING OF THE HOME

In Christianity, blessing a home is an ancient tradition. Many Christians like to offer their house to God and ask for a blessing on those who live within it or might visit. If anyone would like to have their home blessed, whether you just moved in or have been in your home, please call the office to make arrangements.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The annual standardized ACRE test will be administered on Sunday, January 14th for grade 5 and grade 8 during regular class time.

It is important that all children attend class this week (and every week) as this test is mandatory.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

It's January - time we often make New Year's Resolutions! Why not consider making a few resolutions that may help you to become a better Catholic in 2018. Below are some ideas.

Have a smartphone? Consider an app to help you become a better Catholic. Simply type "Catholic" in your phone's app store search index.

Find a patron Saint - There are bags on the side doors of the church which contact Saint's names, why not pick one and learn more about these powerful intercessors.

Consider going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation more frequently. While it's tough to face our sins, this sacrament gives us the grace to fight these sins and perhaps defeat them.

Consider reading the Bible - if only a small amount - on a regular basis

Consider getting more involved in our parish - Volunteer as a lector, choir member, usher or Eucharistic Minister

Consider Praying the Rosary - It has been hailed by saints as a powerful weapon to defeat evil

Consider spending some time in front of the Blessed Sacrament in Eucharistic Adoration

Consider reading Catholic Magazines or Books to help inspire you in your daily living.

THANK YOU SO MUCH PARISHIONERS

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to all the parishioners for everything you have done. In fact, walls of the Church and offices would be weakened without your presence, invaluable support, and commitment.

Many thanks to all of you who work hard behind the scene to support the parish in so many ways. Thanks to all of you who took tags from the Christmas tree and generously bought gifts for the needy families. I am thankful to those who donated more at Christmas or donated Christmas flowers. And to those who sent me Christmas cards and personal gifts, I cannot thank you enough. The staff is also appreciative of your Christmas cards and gifts.

On this New Year-2018, be assured of my prayers as always. May God look kindly upon you and be gracious to you. May He richly reward and bless you today and always.

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

This Monday, we will celebrate the baptism of our Lord which; marks the end of Christmas season. We probably wonder why Jesus requested John to baptize Him. Jesus did not have any sins to repent of and the baptism offered by John the Baptist was for repentance of sins (Luke 3:3). When sinners went to John at the river Jordan they did so because they acknowledged their sinfulness and their baptism symbolized turning over a new leaf in their lives and leaving sin behind. Jesus, although like us in every way, was without sin, as the Letter to the Hebrews assures us (Heb 4:15). That explains why John the Baptist objected to Jesus' request for baptism in the Gospel of Matt, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" (Matt 3:14). The answer Jesus gave John helps us to understand why Jesus wanted to be baptized, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."

The dialogue between John and Jesus in Matthew's gospel answers the question Jesus did submit, but it was "to fulfill all righteousness," not to concede superiority. This is a clear sign of Jesus' humility. In his book, *Jesus of Nazareth* Pope Benedict writes, "Sinless Jesus did not have any sins of his own to take down into the river Jordan, therefore it could only have been our sins that he took down into the river Jordan. Naturally no one would understand this at that time but they would realize this later when they understood that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. So Jesus' baptism in the Jordan and his dying on the cross go together; he did both for our sins. He took our sins on his shoulders as he went down into the Jordan and as he died on the cross."

Why would Christ desire baptism? "Christ is baptized, not to be made holy by water, but to make the water holy, and by his cleansing to purify the waters which he touched. For consecration of Christ involves a more significant consecration of the water. For when the Savior is washed all water for our baptism is made clean, purified at its source for the dispensing of baptismal grace to the people of the future ages." Since Christ went in to be baptized, He models and paved a way for all Christians to go into Baptism with confidence.