

SCRIPTURE READINGS

These readings are found complete on our parish web page (www.olmcsi.org). Click on "USCCB Daily Readings."

TODAY: Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

Next Sun: Holy Family

Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3
Hebrews 11, 8, 11-12, 17-19
Luke 2:22-40



CHRISTMAS SEASON – In the Catholic tradition the Christmas season ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This feast will be celebrated on January 11th. You are encouraged to use the Christmas season as a special time of prayer in which you give thanks to God for God's presence with us in and through Jesus Christ. For families, it is particularly important that your children understand that Christmas is more than the one day on which many are blessed to receive gifts. It is this entire period in which the Church celebrates the truth that God is with us – in all times of our lives. Help your child to understand how God comes to us in prayer, in the sacraments and in the love and kindness we experience from family, friends and strangers. Each day of the Christmas season spend a few minutes with your child and ask him/her, "How was God present to you today?" This is a great way to reveal the true meaning of Christmas and an authentic way to 'keep Christ in Christmas.'

PARISH OFFICE HOURS – December 24 as normal (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.). December 25th and 26th – The office is closed. There is Mass on Friday, December 26 at 8 a.m. and 12:05 p.m. December 31st – The office closes at 1 p.m. January 2nd – The office will be open.

PASTOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING – Monday, December 29th, at 5 p.m. in the Chapel. All are welcome!

NEW WEB ADDRESS – Our parish has a new web address: www.olmcsi.org. Please take a look at our website. If you have suggestions or comments, please feel free to leave a message for Fr. Gil in the rectory.

POPE FRANCIS – WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES in PHILADELPHIA – Pope Francis will visit Philadelphia next September to participate in the world meeting of families to be held from September 22-27. If you would like more information about this event, please see the website: www.worldmeeting2015.org.

VENERABLE PIERRE TOUSSAINT SCHOLARSHIP FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS - Pierre Toussaint Scholarships are presented annually to a number of high school seniors, graduating from a Catholic, public or private school located within the Archdiocese of New York. The scholarship is an award of \$2,000 to be used in connection with attendance at a college, university or post-secondary educational institution of the student's choice. The scholarship may be renewed for three additional years if certain the student meets certain criteria. Information is available in the entrance of the church.

NEW YEAR PRAYER - In this New Year, loving and merciful God, may we recognize our solidarity with the stranger, the outcast, the downtrodden, the abused, and the deprived, that we may treat no human being as "other," but instead recognize our common humanity as what weaves us together in one fabric of mutuality, one garment of destiny. May we pursue the vision of peace that suffuses our sacred scriptures, choosing to live harmoniously with each other, respecting our differences, and cherishing our diversity. We will exploit no one for our gain and not tolerate others who do so but, instead, will call all to reverence the Divine that dwells within each of us. Through your grace, may we commit ourselves in this New Year to honor all persons as brothers and sisters to us, and sow the seeds of kindness, love and mercy in all our encounters each day. We pray this in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

PRAYER FOR THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE – November 30, 2014 to February 2, 2016

O God, throughout the ages you have called women and men to pursue lives of perfect charity through the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience. During this Year of Consecrated Life, we give you thanks for these courageous witnesses of Faith and models of inspiration. Their pursuit of holy lives teaches us to make a more perfect offering of ourselves to you. Continue to enrich your Church by calling forth sons and daughters who, having found the pearl of great price, treasure the Kingdom of Heaven above all things. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Weekly Offering: December 14th: \$2,712. Budget: \$2,100. Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe: \$1,700.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION - By the year 800, when anointing was defined as the proper office of priests, very complicated rituals began to take shape. Perhaps this was to reassure the laity, who had memories of an earlier practice that the new way was not only better, but impossible for a layperson to conduct. Blessings and sprinkling of holy water, the singing of as many as seven psalms, penance, anointing of all the senses, viaticum, all capped off by the clothing of the sick person in penitential garments, were part of the rite. This proved unwieldy, and creative spirits got to work. By the 1500s people made distinctions between visiting the sick, anointing, and viaticum. The attempt of the Church to be faithful to the image of a healing Christ has some complicated history, including centuries when the celebration was rare. Most sick people had no access to the rites at all; only monastics or the well-off had much hope of this care. Today, those unhappy days are long behind us, and the care of the sick is an essential task in every parish's life. As Christmas approaches almost everyone comes in contact with someone who is a candidate for pastoral care. You live out the best of our tradition when you arrange for a sick person to receive Holy Communion or the sacrament of the sick and the consolation of regular contact with the faith community.



Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 21, 2014

The child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. –Luke 1:35



Weekly Mass Intentions



Mass Intentions

Saturday December 20

8:00am- † Grace Coleman

By: Aurora Nazareno Ocampo

5:00pm- † Jim & Gene Obermayer

Offered By: Family

Sunday December 21

8:30am- † Zappone, Iannucci, Gagliardi, Zarelli & Sann Families

Offered By: Pat, Sur, Maria & Dominic

10:00am- † Contardo, Micillo & DePalo Families

Offered By: Theresa Contardo

11:30am- † Fr. Stephen Valenta

Offered By: Friends

6:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

Monday December 22

8:00am- † Grace Coleman

By: Aurora Nazareno Ocampo

12:05pm- † MaryAnn Russell

By: loving daughter, Mary Fair

Tuesday December 23

8:00am - † Grace Coleman

By: Aurora Nazareno Ocampo

12:05pm-*Living*-Special Intentions Evette Contreras

Offered By: Joann Scamardella

Wednesday December 24 ~Christmas Eve~

8:00am- † Capper & Coleman Families

By: Aurora Nazareno Ocampo

5:00pm- † Nancy & Charlie Pommerenk

Offered By: Family

10:00pm- † Pancrazio LaMorte

Offered By: Wife & Family

Thursday December 25 ~Christmas Day~

10:00am- † Grace, Ciro & Andrew Frulio

Offered By: Frulio Family

Friday December 26

8:00am- †

Offered By:

12:05pm-†

Offered By:

Saturday December 27

8:00am- † Dominick Negri ~*Birthday in Heaven*~

Offered By: Family

5:00pm- † Dolores Zukowski

Offered By: Cappucci Family

Sunday December 28

8:30am- † Mary Louise Brown

Offered By: Lisa Naughton

10:00am- † Mrs. Helen Valentine

By: son, Thomas Valentine

11:30am- † Fr. Stephen Valenta

Offered By: Friends

6:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

Weekly Memorials

Bread & Wine
Tabernacle Candle
Memorial Candle



Lectors & E.M. ~ Schedule for Christmas & New Year Masses~

Wednesday, December 24, 2014 – 5:00pm (Christmas Eve)

Lector: Linda Graves (carry Gospel Book)

Eucharistic Ministers: Alexis Crowdell, Samuel Torres & Nancy Velez

Wednesday, December 24, 2014 – 10:00pm (Christmas Eve)

Lector: Valerie Cappucci (carry Gospel Book)

Eucharistic Ministers: Victoria Garay, Bill Hinton & Angelo Sabella

Thursday, December 25, 2014 – 10:00am (Christmas Day)

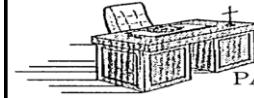
Lector: Delmeter Carey (carry Gospel Book)

Eucharistic Ministers: Theresa Contardo, Peg & Tom Ventrudo

Thursday, January 1, 2015 – 10:00am (Christmas Day)

Lector: Joan Knighton (carry Gospel Book)

Eucharistic Ministers: Delmeter Carey, Lydia Moran & Linda Torres



FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK

This is the season of our hope, but for our hope to be realized we must grow in the spirit of Mary, mother of God and our mother as well.

What is the source or foundation of our Christian hope? It is our faith that God entered into human history in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. In his life, Jesus showed us the way of love that will ultimately prevail over evil, sin and death. We know that the love Jesus modeled for us will prevail over evil, sin and death because through his suffering, death and resurrection Jesus broke the power of evil, sin and death once for all. Life and love has triumphed over sin, evil and death. It is through this faith that we are able to persevere in the good in spite of the evil, sin and injustice that we encounter in our lives and in our world. It is not foolish or naïve for us to persevere in lives of love because our love can and does transform our world.

To persevere in this faith, we must have the attitude of Mary. When God asked her to be the mother of God's only Son, Mary wrestled with what God was asking of her. But ultimately, Mary said "Yes" to God because her experience of God in her life and in the life of her people was such that it made sense for her to trust in God. With her "Yes," Mary literally changed the course of human history. Every day we are asked by God to choose what is good, to do what is right, and to do what love and compassion requires. Every time that we say "Yes" to God, we help the reign of God to unfold in our world through our lives. We make present the love of God in our world and help move the world to its final victory over evil, sin and death. There are days when we may struggle with our "Yes" to God because it seems that evil, sin and death are winning, but we must trust in God as Mary did. And if we trust in God as Mary did, then we too will be instruments through whom God will transform our world.

In this sacred season, may we pray for the grace to say "Yes" to God and to accept all that our "Yes" demands of us in the confidence that our "Yes" transforms us and our world.

Fr. Mark Hallinan, S.J.