

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

One Passaic Street, Ridgewood, NJ 07450 | 201.444.2000 | www.olmcridgewood.com

January 5, 2025

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD **THE WISE STILL SEEK HIM**



PARISH DIRECTORY
www.olmcridgewood.com

Parish Office: 1 Passaic Street, Ridgewood, NJ 07450-4309
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Parish Office Hours

Monday-Friday—9AM-8PM | Saturday-Sunday—9AM-2PM

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Dear Friends,

On this 1st Sunday of the New Year, I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year. I hope your holidays were filled with love, joy, celebration and gratitude for your families and friends with whom you celebrated.

Speaking of gratitude, I can think of no better way to enter into the New Year then to give thanks to God for the blessings of the past year:

-I give thanks to God for all of you, the entire parish family of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, for all of you who joined us for the celebrations of the love God has for us in enfleshing His Son, the Word, in the human body of Jesus whose birth in the flesh we celebrated last week. Your presence/participation in this great Feast warms my heart and, I hope, all of yours as well. I know there are priests who decry the presence of those who rarely come, except for major holidays like Christmas. I do not. To come is to have faith and we are all traveling that road of a deepening faith. We know what Jesus did with five loaves and two fish. He works miracles with whatever we offer him. Thank you for offering him your presence.

-I give thanks to God for all those who contributed to our Christmas celebrations, the ushers, the greeters, the Music Ministry, the servers, the readers, the Eucharistic Ministers, the decorators of both the church and the auditorium. It's gratifying to hear so many people comment on the beauty of the church and the mood it sets to truly celebrate the joy of the season. This thanks includes the crew that creates the "presepio," the extensive presentation in the St. Joseph Shrine that tells the whole story of the infancy narratives. Did you know it's created new each year and is never exactly the same from year to year? It's also gratifying to see so many people stop after every Mass, from the time it goes up to the time it is removed, to remember the fullness of the Christmas story.

-I give thanks to God for the wonderful staff here at Mount Carmel, literally every one, from the priests to the sacristans to the part time receptionists. They are all dedicated to helping this community grow in faith.

-I give thanks to God for all those who gave of their time and talent to give us live presentations of various parts of the Christmas story, the choirs (whom I have already acknowledged) and those involved in the Spanish/English Christmas play and the 3 Kings (and their camels). The stories can never be retold enough.

-I give thanks to God for all who have been so kind and considerate in sending all sorts of Christmas gifts to the rectory, the cakes, cookies, chocolates, fruits, nuts and libations. It is so generous and kind of you to remember us with these gifts, and often, with words of thankfulness and encouragement. All of them add warmth to our own experience of the joy of the season.

I hope your Christmas was filled with the special experience of the Presence of the newborn Child who brings you peace, and hope for the future, knowing His “enfleshment” is a real guarantee that He walks with us, accompanies us, is by our side in every moment of our lives. The first reading for the Mass on New Year’s Day is the famous reading from the Old Testament Book of Numbers. The Lord tells Aaron (Moses’ brother) he is to bless the people with these words, **“The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace.”** (Numbers 6: 24-26). We live in an “attention economy,” one in which vendors, either service or product, are always trying to get our attention. And we hear that all day long, from so many sources, our televisions, computers, iPads and iPhones. But those words from Numbers tell us something different. They don’t tell us to get God’s attention—just the opposite. They tell us God is giving us His attention, that His face **shines** upon us and He looks upon us with kindness. What a wonderful image to take with us as we enter this New Year, this Jubilee Year, this Holy Year, this year of **hope**. There is not a moment that goes by that we are not in the Lord’s gaze, looking upon us kindly, shining upon us with graciousness. May I suggest that when you awaken each day, you remember that and travel the paths of that day believing it and living by it.

Finally I share with you some personal news. Before Thanksgiving, I had a meeting with the Cardinal on some matters concerning the Mission in the Turks and Caicos Islands, as I still am the Vicar General of the Mission. At the end of that meeting I had a chance to speak with the Cardinal about my own future, the first time we had done so in all these years. Long story short, after this discussion, and some written communications, the decision was made to postpone my retirement for one more year, until June 30, 2026. While nothing is ever certain in life (except the proverbial *death and taxes*), I do believe this will be the last extension. So, I’m afraid you’re stuck with me for another year and a half.

Grace and Peace for the New Year,
Fr. Ron

ANNUAL MEN'S CORNERSTONE RETREAT
FRIDAY-SATURDAY—JANUARY 24-25, 2025
PREPARATIONS ARE BEING MADE!
REGISTER NOW!

If your spiritual batteries are in need of a recharge, then this Cornerstone retreat may be God’s answer. Registration is now open for our Annual Men’s Cornerstone Retreat held in the Parish Center. Use the QR Code here to register now.



Expect to find camaraderie, fellowship and opportunity for renewal in a relaxed environment. This year’s event is fast approaching, scheduled two weeks before Super Bowl LIX. Consider it a gift to yourself.

Questions/More Information
Contact Dan O’Keefe, danokeefe@icloud.com

STEWARDSHIP

“Brothers and sisters: you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for your benefit.” St. Paul’s words to the Ephesians, part of today’s 2nd Reading, remind us that stewardship essentially is for others. For St. Paul, it was for the communities he founded and served. For us, particularly, it is for our community. We are gifted in order to use those gifts to build up the community, which is the local church. The Christian Steward especially uses gifts of **Time, Talent and Treasure** for this building up of the community. How do you build God’s kingdom?

The parish Stewardship of Treasure last week was \$15,710. The Stewardship of Treasure for the month of December will appear in next Sunday’s bulletin. God bless your continued support of the parish and the work of the Gospel. That New Year’s resolution is still open to you—to support the parish by using online giving, either **WeShare** or **Venmo**.



A recurring online gift
To Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
is the best way to sustain
the mission of this parish
all year long.



Look for the **WeShare** link on our website homepage,
Scan this QR Code, or call 877.316.0260

You can support OLMC via venmo!

Find us under “Charities” @olmcridgewoodnj
or scan the QR code here.



Ministry of Motherhood (MOMs)
THIS WEDNESDAY—JANUARY 8TH
9:15AM—PARISH CENTER

GUEST SPEAKER PATRICK MANNING, PhD.
DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC STUDIES, SETON HALL

All mothers are invited to a talk by one of Seton Hall’s top professors! Dr. Manning will present “Spiritual Remedies for Stress, Busyness, and Tech Overload.” Get the insights of a college class... tuition-free! Coffee and breakfast will be served. Children are welcome! No RSVP required! Just come!!

For more information, go to www.olmcmoms.com or email
Katherine Clark at OLMCmomsridgewoodnj@gmail.com

MOMS OF ALL AGES WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND!
COMPLIMENTARY BABYSITTING!

Join fellow parishioners to pray the rosary
each week in the Daily Mass Chapel.

Spanish—Sundays—2:00PM
English—Thursdays—7:30PM

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Jesus and Me Storytime This Coming Saturday—January 11, 2025 Parish Center Meeting Room

Bring your child, grandchild or Godchild to a fun, faith filled, story time for young children ages 2 1/2 to 5.

To register contact **Adriana DeCandia**
thedomesticchurch61@gmail.com
\$10 suggested donation per family



Academy of Our Lady
(180 Rodney Street, Glen Rock)

Open House
Sunday, January 26th
11:00AM-1:00PM



All parishioners are invited to visit our parish school, offering preschool through grade 8! Meet faculty members, see the classrooms, and hear from current students about their experience. Little ones are welcome.



Hello, friends!

Since my involvement with *ChristLife: Discovering Christ* in 2012, I've seen **thousands** of lives changed, renovated, enhanced—*add anything good*—by this experience.

I want to, again, personally invite you to consider it if you haven't already. The **QR code** above takes you to a page where you'll get to watch the video again and also read, in more depth, what those evenings will "taste" like.

Discovering Christ is for **anyone** 18+. It's real. It's not an info session, a gripe session, or a place where guilt will be heaped upon you. It's engaging and unlike any other "church" thing I've—and hundreds of others—ever witnessed.

If you've *already* experienced it, here's my invitation for you: invite someone to think about registering through the QR code. Plant a seed—and we'll do the rest, starting on **Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 7PM.**

Fr. Frank

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL LADIES SOCIAL

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16TH | 7PM | PARISH CENTER

Reserve your spot now for a parish-wide social for women! Award winning business owner, art teacher, and Mt. Carmel parishioner, Jackie Carter, will lead attendees in creating personalized lists of happiness boosting activities. (Based on the popular "dopamine menu" concept.) Come for the fun and leave with a doable approach to prioritize your well-being in 2025! \$40 includes all materials. Light appetizers and snacks will be provided! Scan the QR code here to register now.



MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT & MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Thursday Evenings—8PM-9PM
January 30–April 3

Retreat Saturday, April 5

Lower Level of the School Building

- ◆ Do you see a need for a more Christ-centered marriage?
- ◆ Are you interested in living out the sacrament of marriage more deeply?
- ◆ Are you preparing to enter marriage? If so, this course fulfills the marriage preparation requirement.

This course is open to all couples—both those who are already married and those who are preparing for marriage.

For more information or to register,
contact Fr. Jakov
jvidov@olmcridgewood.com or 201.444.2000 x202



THE COMMUNITY THRIFT SHOP

85 Godwin Avenue (lower level, rear) Midland Park,

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**PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
(PEA)
CHAPEL IS OPEN 24/7
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**



*In this season of potential inclement weather,
always check the OLMC website, or call/text
the Coordinators, for the closing and re-
opening of the chapel.*

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration (PEA) is all about prayer. Prayer is communication with God and with PEA we can communicate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This devotion gives glory to God and deepens our personal relationship with Him—both individually, and as a community. We all take a turn every hour to be with Jesus in the PEA chapel. How blessed we are that we can talk to God, physically present in the Blessed Sacrament, sharing our innermost thoughts without being criticized, judged or condemned—but loved and at peace.

To all Adorers: Kindly text/call your Coordinator if you cannot make your scheduled hour so that we can find a substitute. We cannot leave Jesus alone in the chapel.

Everyone is invited to participate in Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration. Stop by the chapel anytime or, better yet, sign up for an hour that is good for you.

SCHEDULED ADORERS URGENTLY NEEDED

Sundays: 1-2PM; Wednesdays: 7-8AM;
Fridays: 2-3AM, 8-9AM, 7-8PM;
Saturdays: 3-4PM, 5-6PM

Contact Cynthia—551.574.1063, cynthiabtorres@yahoo.com



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE
FAITHFUL DEPARTED
OCTOBER, NOVEMBER & DECEMBER**

Gloria Aloni, Patrick Azzolini, Louise Baumgarten,
Dennis Bombardier, James Castillo, Robert Conrad,
Daniel Corazza, Charles Costanzo, Maureen Darcy,
Marie DeVita, Robert Dilger, Sabrina Glavan,
Stephen Haas, Brian Kennedy, Marilyn Leonard,
Joseph Letizia, Edward Lettieri, Eugene McInerney,
Margaret Mulqueen, Arlene Nisbet, Lucy Rieger,
Richard Scalione and Maryanne Taddeo,

VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD NEWS

Caretakers Support Group for Neurodegenerative Disease

First Monday of every month—6PM-8PM—Ridgewood YMCA
Call 201.444.5600 x302 to register.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sun. Jan. 5	1:30PM OCIA (MR) 1:30PM Bell Choir (PCB) 2:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 4:00PM Spanish Apostolate (PCA) 7:30PM McHugh Confirmation Group (YCA)
Mon. Jan. 6	4:30PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:30PM Men's Cornerstone (MR)
Tues. Jan. 7	3:45PM Jr. High 7A (PC) 4:00PM Religious Ed Grades 1-6 (Gym) 5:00PM Choir Practice (Church) 5:30pm CYO Basketball (Gym) 6:30PM OCIC (REC1) 7:00PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW) 7:30PM Parish Council Meeting (MR)
Wed. Jan. 8	9:15AM MOMs Monthly Meeting (PC) 3:45PM Jr. High 7B (PC) 4:30PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:00PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW) 7:00PM Spanish Choir Rehearsal (Church_
Thur. Jan. 9	9:00PM Opus Dei (PCA) 3:30PM Jr. High Youth Group (Gym) 4:30PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 5:30PM NCW 3 rd Community (YCB) 7:15PM WCST Team 24 (MR) 8:00PM Neocatechumenal Way (PC)
Fri. Jan. 10	9:00AM SALT (SMR) 10:30AM WCST Bible Study (Library) 4:30PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:30PM Young Adult Holy Hour (Church)
Sat. Jan. 11	9:00AM CYO Basketball (Gym) 9:00AM Men's Basketball (Gym) 9:00AM AoOL Girls Basketball (Gym) 9:00AM Youth Group Food Drive (Driveway) 10:30AM Jesus & Me Storytime (MR) 11:00AM First Penance (Church) 2:00PM First Penance (Church) 6:00PM Neocatechumenal Way (PC)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE ILL MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH

Joan Donegan Als, Frederick Bruno, Mike Bucci, Charles Buckley, Kimberly Parsons Daub, Nick DiDonato, Maura Gillen Eidschun, Marie Evans, Kay & Bill Forster, Frank Gillen, Susan Hart-White, Joseph Hyon, Marc Johnson, Tom Keleher, Claudia LaFrance, Susan Lois, Cambell McArthur, Christine O'Brien, David Oswald, Margaret Peak, Mary Kathleen Ramge, Cathy Ricciuto, Francis Tedaro Ristor, Michael Runz, Nancy Steen, Don Strittmatter, Larry Switaj, Nickolas John Tedaro, Christina Volpe, Rochelle West, Rosemary Wright, Walter John Zelop, Jr.

Parishioners may call the Rectory with the name of a family member who is sick to have them included in our prayers.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Timothy Bombace, Aedan Cannon, Edgar Delgado,
Nick Haddad, Durkin McCarthy, John Morano,
James Nardelli, Robert Smith, Thomas Tesoriero

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



TODAY'S READINGS

1. Isaiah 60:1-6

The closing oracles of Isaiah celebrate the restoration of Jerusalem. Newly reconciled with God and recently returned from the darkness of exile in Babylon, the people, represented as Jerusalem, are invited to rise from their feet and witness all the wonderful things God has in store for them. The darkness and thick clouds of the people's past are replaced by light. And the nation itself becomes that for the nations, guiding them along the path that leads to God. In thanksgiving for this priceless lesson in faith that Jerusalem offers them, the nations bring their riches to the holy city.

2. Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

As a steward, Paul understands that all that God has revealed to him was to be passed on to others. Essential to this mission is the realization of the universality of God's loving and saving concerns for all humankind. Though the universal character of God's plan was envisioned and encouraged by the prophets (as in Isaiah in the 1st reading), the provincialism that narrowed the vision was a major barrier for the Chosen People. Now, however, God has made it clear that all enjoy the Promise.

3. Matthew 2: 1-12

The Matthean theme of Jesus' rejection by Israel, but acceptance by the gentile world is prefigured in this infancy narrative. Not only do the gifts portend Jesus' kingship (gold), his priestly ministry (frankincense) and his sacrificial death (myrrh), they prefigure the announcement of universal salvation by the gentiles, over and above its acceptance by the Chosen People. While the kings represent the gentile world, Herod, the priests and scribes and all Jerusalem represent those Jews, considerable in number, who will reject Jesus. It is a clash of Kingdoms, but the Kingdom of God will triumph.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK

1. Have you ever been moved to action by a star, a vision or an inner voice? When?
2. Are you a "light to the nations," meaning, do you believe it is part of your calling to lead others to believe in Jesus Christ?
3. Matthew's story of the Epiphany is about the message that is now open and available to "outsiders." Whom do you treat as outsiders? Does this Gospel say anything to you about that?

NEXT WEEKEND'S PRESIDERS

Sat. 1/11	5:30PM	Fr. Ron
Sun. 1/12	8:00AM	Fr. Jakov
	9:30AM	Fr. Frank
	11:00AM	Fr. Frank
	12:30PM	Fr. Ron
	3:00PM	Fr. Jakov
	6:30PM	Fr. Ron

Late changes appear on the website after 12NN on the Saturday of that weekend.

Monday, Jan. 6 Saint Andre Bessette, Religious

+ 6:30AM Paddy Whelan

req Donal & Ann Quinn

+ 8:30AM Deceased Members

of the Uzzalino Family

req Marie Cummings

+12:00NN Nicoleta Minervini

req Miso & Dina Vrkic

Tuesday, Jan. 7 Saint Raymond of Peñafort, Priest

+ 6:30AM Mary Carmody

req Robert Klemm

+ 8:30AM Dominick & Virginia Di Noto

req Rich & Marie Cummings

12:00NN In Thanksgiving for Family

req The De Castro Family

Wednesday, Jan. 8

+ 6:30AM For All the Souls in Purgatory

req Stefano & Domenica Bussanich

+ 8:30AM Cristina Gonzalez

req The McClure Family

+12:00NN Arturo Benemerito

req Julieta Benemerito

Thursday, Jan. 9

+ 6:30AM For All the Souls in Purgatory

req Stefano & Domenica Bussanich

+ 8:30AM Alejandra Caceres

req The McClure Family

+12:00NN Marie Soriano

req Kathy & Bart Rekucki

Friday, Jan. 10

+ 6:30AM Jo & Norm Delaney

req The Delaney Family

+ 8:30AM Patricia Lewis

req Tom & Louise Lewis

+12:00NN Peter Scaglione & Carolyn Denning

req The Callanan Family

Saturday, Jan. 11

+ 8:30AM Patrick Caufield

req The Brencovich Family

+ 5:30PM William Frank

req The Crosby Family

Sunday, Jan. 12 The Baptism of the Lord

8:00AM For the People of the Parish

+ 9:30AM Raymond John De Leon

req The Gallo Family

+11:00AM Michael G. Hughes

req The Dunworth Family

+12:30PM Alfreda & Cipriano Diola

req The Veloso Family

+ 3:00PM Armando Casola

req Patricia Beltran

+ 6:30PM Giuseppe Parise

req The Brencovich Family

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