



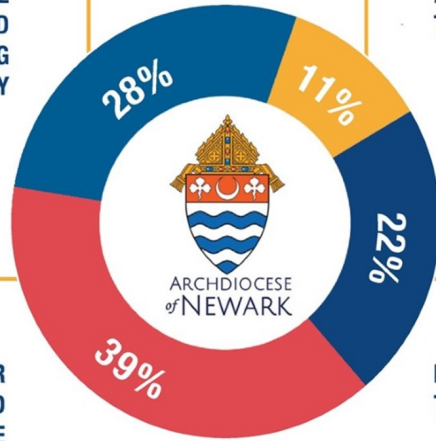
2026 ANNUAL APPEAL CASE FOR SUPPORT

FORMING FUTURE
PRIESTS AND
SUPPORTING
RETIRED CLERGY

CARING FOR
THE POOR AND
VULNERABLE

PROCLAIMING
THE GOSPEL

PASSING ON
THE FAITH



PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL

\$1,000,000

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES FUNDED INCLUDE:

- Ministry to Multi-Ethnic Communities
- Office of Evangelization
- Office of Family Life
- International Missions
- Pastoral Ministry with the Deaf
- Ministry with Persons with Disabilities

PASSING ON THE FAITH

\$2,000,000

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES FUNDED INCLUDE:

- Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry
- Catechetical Office
- Campus Ministry at affiliated Colleges & Universities
- Catholic Schools

CARING FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

\$3,500,000

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES FUNDED INCLUDE:

- Catholic Charities
- Hospital and Prison Chaplaincy
- Respect Life Office
(Includes Mercy House and Pro-Life Efforts)
- Protecting God's Children

FORMING FUTURE PRIESTS AND SUPPORTING RETIRED CLERGY

\$2,500,000

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES FUNDED INCLUDE:

- Continuing Formation for Priests
- Seminarian Education
- Priest Health Care

TO MAKE A GIFT ONLINE
PLEASE VISIT [RCAN.ORG/SHARING](https://rcan.org/sharing)



Our Lady of Mount Carmel—One Passaic Street, Ridgewood, NJ 07450 — March 1, 2026

PARISH DIRECTORY
www.olmcridgewood.com

Parish Office: 1 Passaic Street, Ridgewood, NJ 07450-4309
Phone: 201.444.2000 Fax: 201.444.2002

Parish Office Hours

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

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Ext. 203, jcdesousa@olmcridgewood.com
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Ext. 403, mdelosreyes@olmcridgewood.com



Dear Friends,

As I have mentioned several times already, I have moved **Commitment Weekend** (formally called Pledge Sunday) for the **Annual Appeal** from the 2nd weekend in March to this weekend. Next weekend is the 1st Scrutiny of the *OCIA* for the two **Elect** who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil and I didn't want to tie up that liturgy with the video and the appeal and so we're doing it this weekend.

First a re-cap of last year's **Appeal**. We ended the year with 542 households participating in the **Appeal**. That's 21 more than the previous year. Thank you to all 542 households. It marks a significant increase in parish participation. The total received was \$418,207 on pledges of \$429,676. Thank you for your generosity. As I have always said, no matter what the cause, this is an extraordinarily generous parish. While I didn't go back to check, I believe Mount Carmel is the single largest supporter of the **Appeal** for more than twenty-five years straight, even though we are not the largest nor the wealthiest parish in the Archdiocese. Thank you again. Because of your generosity to the **Appeal**, the parish is anticipating a check from the Archdiocese for almost \$118,000, the rebate to the parish because it exceeded its goal. All because of you. **Thank you.**

As I have already mentioned, you should have received **Appeal** materials and a letter from the Cardinal, as well as a letter from me. From those materials you have already received, I want to repeat a few points. The campaign funds what the Church is supposed to be about. First and foremost the Church must be about *Proclaiming the Gospel*, announcing to the world it is loved by Jesus Christ. While this is the responsibility of every baptized Catholic, there is a special place for those called to the priestly ministry and so *Forming Future Priests* must be a part of the Church's work, as well as *Supporting Retired Clergy*, those who have labored long and hard in the vineyard (myself included, sooner or later?). *Passing on the Faith* to future generations is also an essential work of the Church and living Jesus' love, in concrete ways drives the Church's mission in *Caring for the Poor and the Vulnerable*. This last mission of the Church is so important that it receives the largest portion of the funds raised through the Appeal, three and a half million dollars, 39% of the funds raised.

I truly believe the case statement, all that I have shared and all that's represented in the brochure, speak to the strength of the Appeal and the fact that it represents the Church's outreach to those in need right here, among us, in our own backyard, brothers and sisters right around the corner from us. And for those who wonder whether the funds are actually going to these works, I quote the Cardinal from the Annual Appeal

Brochure, “I humbly ask for your support. All funds collected through the Annual Appeal support the programs and ministries designated in this campaign and detailed here. While the appeal might not be as heart-wrenching as other appeals, for instance those for the victims of natural disasters, in the long run it is just as critical for the future of our faith in this area.

To repeat, ad *nauseam*, what is my goal? Obviously to raise more funds, both for these causes and for ourselves, through the long standing rebate policy of the Archdiocese. 50% of all funds over the parish goal and collected by December 31, 2026 will be given back to the parish. But **participation** is the key word. After all these years, I think from the beginning of my pastorate, almost 29 years ago, you know what my principle goal has always been, year in and year out – to consistently increase the number of parish “households” involved in this support. I had hoped last year we could reach 550 households. We didn’t quite make it but we came close. This year, could we possibly get 575 households to participate? Please help us in that quest. As we look around our country and the world, wars, conflicts, strife and division are everywhere. Couldn’t our nation and the world be a better place? *Proclaiming the Gospel* might just be a place to start.

To those who have already pledged/given to this year’s **Appeal**, thank you. To those who have given in the past, please make your gift/pledge this week. I have already made my pledge. As in the past, I noticed, once again, that the materials suggest an increase and, once again, I gave in. Within your own circumstances, I ask you to think and pray about what that means for you. To those who have not given, please join the hundreds of parish households who have added their voice and resources to see that the Gospel continues to be preached here in our community and throughout the four counties of northern New Jersey.

The format for the weekend is always the same, the video message from the Cardinal and a few words from me. For those who didn’t receive materials in the mail, there will be **Appeal** brochures in the pews, along with pledge envelopes. Please take one home with you, pray about it and, hopefully, make a pledge this week and mail it directly back to the Archdiocese or place it in the boxes at the doors of the church or drop it off at the rectory. Even better, there will be a link on our Homepage directly to the Archdiocesan link for the **Appeal**. Either way, be sure to identify our parish so the gift gets the proper credit.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Grace and Peace,
Fr. Ron

STEWARDSHIP

“Beloved: Bear your share of hardship for the gospel” In these opening words of today’s 2nd Reading, Paul reminds us that everyone is called to be a “bearer” of the Gospel, that everyone must not only keep to it but spread it as well. The Christian Steward understands this, offering gifts of **Time, Talent and Treasure** as ways to bear the Gospel for the world, building God’s kingdom in this same world. Do you “bear” and build?

The parish Stewardship of Treasure last week was \$13,042 God bless your generous support of the work of the Gospel. **Online Giving** is a tremendous help to the parish in stabilizing its income. Please help us and give it a try.



OLMC’s Ministry of Motherhood
MOMs MONTHLY MEETING
THIS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4TH
9:15AM—PARISH CENTER

All mothers are invited to the next Mt. Camel MOMs monthly meeting! Our speaker will be Katie Gately of Behaved Brain, talking to us about the science behind better brain health for our kids and giving us practical tips to support our kids and ourselves! We are so excited to have Katie join us!

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

MOMS OF ALL AGES WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND!
No RSVP Required! COMPLIMENTARY BABYSITTING!

Academy of Our Lady  Home School Association
Calendar Raffle

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ONE GRAND PRIZE OF \$4,000!

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JILLAVELLA@GMAIL.COM, 551.579.3001
(CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ACADEMY OF OUR LADY)

DRAWINGS BEGIN THIS THURSDAY—MARCH 6!

TICKETS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE OLMC RECTORY OFFICE
MONDAY-FRIDAY, 9AM-4PM



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the mission of this parish
all year long...



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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Religious Education Grades 1-6



The Summer Religious Education Program is open to all children entering grades 1-6 this coming September.

SUMMER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM DATES/TIME

June 25, 26, 29, 30; July 1 & 2 ~ 9:15AM-1:00PM

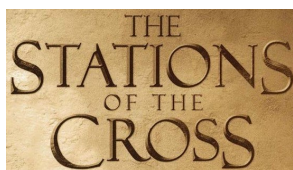
SUMMER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM PARENT REGISTRATION MEETING

Tomorrow Evening—Monday, March 2—7:30PM

Attendance at a Parent Meeting is required if you want to register your child(ren) for the Summer Religious Education Program. There will be no exceptions.

Summer Program registration links will be emailed to interested families after the Parent Registration meetings.

For more information contact Cathy Hunt in the Religious Education office: chunt@olmcridgewood.com, or 201-444-0211.



All are Welcome!
Pray the Stations of the Cross
Each Friday in Lent
Immediately Following
The 12:00 Noon Mass

We will be praying the Stations of the Cross in the main church immediately following noon Mass on Fridays during Lent. The devotional prayers depict 14 events in the Passion of Jesus Christ, beginning with Jesus being condemned to death and ending with His body being laid in the tomb. The pious practice of praying the Stations of the Cross originated in medieval Europe when pilgrims were unable to visit the Holy Land, so instead “visited” these Holy places through prayer. St. Francis of Assisi, the founder of the Franciscan order, authored Stations of the Cross that popularized the devotion throughout the world. Dcn. Bob Liwanag will be leading the prayers.



FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH, FOLLOWING 8:30AM MASS

Mass will be said in the church, but we will gather for adoration in the chapel. Come to pray the rosary with us and meditate on the mysteries as Our Lady requested at Fatima.

This Devotion is for the intention of consoling and making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Anthony Bollhofer, Aedan Cannon, Nick Haddad,
Durkin McCarthy, John Morano, James Nardelli,
Michael Ortolani, Robert Smith, Thomas Tesoriero



ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATION KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DINNER DANCE

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026

Knights of Columbus Hall

7:00PM-11:00PM

Celebrate the life of Saint Patrick at the annual Knights of Columbus Dinner Dance. Gather with family and friends and enjoy an all you can eat buffet.

Corned Beef Dinner ~ Irish Folk Band
Grand Prize Raffle Drawing—\$2,500

Reservations are \$60/person

Reserve Now! Limited Seating

Table Reservations/Questions Contact Mark or Mike
mmulvey22@gmail.com—michaelkowalski72@gmail.com



The **Order of Christian Initiation of Adults** is the faith journey process centered on the beliefs and teachings of the Catholic Church to guide an inquirer towards a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through the sacraments that are celebrated in the Catholic Church during Easter.

There are three types of inquirers: 1) **Catholics** – Adults who seek to receive Confirmation and, in certain cases, also the Eucharist; 2) **Baptized Christians** – Adults whose baptism from Christian denominations that are recognized by the Catholic Church. They seek to be in full communion in the Catholic Church by receiving Confirmation and the Eucharist; and 3) **Non-Baptized** – Adults who have not been baptized or received baptism that is not recognized by the Catholic Church. They seek to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church by receiving Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist in the Easter Vigil.

After the celebration of the **Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election**, the non-baptized catechumens were invited to participate in the **Rite of Election**. It marks the end of the catechumenate period after a long period of catechesis in the formation of the catechumen's heart and mind to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The catechumen is transformed into the elect. The **Rite of Election** was scheduled on February 22, 2026 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark but cancelled because of the snowstorm. Archbishop Cardinal Joseph Tobin delegated the faculty to celebrate this Rite to the pastors in the Archdiocese of Newark. **Msgr. Ron will celebrate the Rite of Election on Saturday, February 28, 2026, at the 8:30 AM Mass**, assisted by Deacon Bob Liwanag.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel is blessed to have two elect, *Kim Derkacs* and *Jennifer Phan*, for Easter 2026. The parish community is invited to pray for these elect and candidates as their faith journey to know Jesus Christ at a personal level grows and deepens.



PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION (PEA)

**CHAPEL IS OPEN 24/7
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

All are warmly invited to Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration.

A PRAYER FOR PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lord Jesus, light of the world, You shine quietly from the Eucharist, dispelling the shadows within me.

Draw my heart away from noise, from pride, from distractions, and anchor it in You alone.

Teach me to listen as Your first disciples did, to follow You not in haste, but in faithful love.

Unite Your church in Your presence, heal what is divided, and make us one in You.

Stay with us, Lord, as we stay with You.

Amen

Stop by the chapel at anytime. The chapel is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Better yet, sign up for one holy hour once a week, every week, to glorify God and to help keep the door open to anyone seeking God, seeking peace.

Come spend an hour with Jesus. The chapel is open 24/7.

SCHEDULED ADORERS NEEDED

Sundays: 2-3AM; Wednesdays: 2-3AM, 9-10PM;
Fridays: 4-5AM, 2-3PM; Saturdays: 5-6PM

For more information

Contact Cynthia—551.574.1063, cynthiabtorres@yahoo.com

THE KALEIDOSCOPE:

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DEMENTIA'S CHANGING LANDSCAPE

A Monthly Speaker Series
on Dementia, Connection & Community



Held the 1st Wednesday of each month.

THIS MONTH—WEDNESDAY, March 4TH

Abundant Life Reformed Church
475 Lafayette Avenue, Wyckoff

5:30PM—7:00PM (Light Supper 5:30PM-6:00PM)

Free to Attend | All are Welcome! | Please RSVP for Food

RSVP: dementiasupport@abundantlifewyckoff.org
201.444.8038

MARCH TOPIC

WHY "HOW" MATTERS MORE THAN "WHAT"

We'll explore how tone, pace, positioning and presence influence connection, cooperation, and emotional safety; and, how relational shifts can create smoother, more connected moments in daily life.

Daylight Savings Time Begins

Next weekend—March 7, 2026

Clocks "spring ahead" one hour.



THE WEEK AHEAD

Sun. Mar. 1	9:00AM MOMs Family Service Day (PC) 1:30PM OCIA (MR) 1:30PM Bell Choir Practice (PCB) 4:00PM Spanish Apostolate (PC) 5:00PM Jr. High 7C (MR) 7:30PM Jr. High 7D (MR) 7:30PM Costello/Hogan Conf. Group (YCB) 7:30PM Scali/Winnert Conf. Group. (REC1) 7:30PM Harrington/Rollauer Conf. Grp. (YCA)
Mon. Mar. 2	12:30PM Staff Meeting (MR) 4:00PM WCST Circle of Prayer Prep (Library) 5:30PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 6:00PM SCC Core Team (SMR) 7:30PM Men's Cornerstone (MR) 7:30PM Summer Program Parent Mtg (PC) 7:30PM Contemporary Choir (Church)
Tues. Mar. 3	3:45PM Jr. High 7A (PC) 4:00PM Religious Ed Grades 1-6 (Gym) 5:00PM Choir Rehearsal (Church) 5:30PM CYO Basketball (GYM) 6:00PM Shrake Religious Ed. (REC1) 7:00PM ChristLife: Discovering Christ (PC) 8:00PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)
Wed. Mar. 4	9:15AM MOM's Monthly Meeting (PC) 3:45PM Jr. High 7B (PC) 5:30PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:00PM Grade 6 Zoom 8:00PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)
Thurs. Mar. 5	10:30AM Sunday Liturgy Scripture Study (SMR) 5:30PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:15PM WCST Team 25 (MR) 7:30PM Knights Social (K of C Hall) 8:00PM Marriage Enrichment/Prep (NCW)
Fri. Mar.. 6	10:00AM WCST Scripture Study (SMR) 5:00PM Jr. High Lock In (PC) 5:30PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:00PM Inspire Young Adult Ministry (NCW)
Sat. Mar. 7	9:00AM CYO Basketball (Gym) 9:00AM Men's Basketball (Gym)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE ILL MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH

Dale Adamo, Luis Badillo, Frederick Bruno, Mike Bucci, Charles Buckley, Kimberly Parsons Daub, Nick DiDonato, Maura Gillen Eidschun, Marie Evans, Kay & Bill Forster, Julianna Grace Giles, Frank Gillen, Susan Hart-White, Joseph Hyon, Marc Johnson, Tom Keleher, Claudia LaFrance, Susan Lois, Campbell McArthur, Christine O'Brien, David Oswald, Margaret Peak, Mary Kathleen Ramge, Linda Reo, Cathy Ricciuto, Art Rippas, Francis Tedaro Ristor, Michael Runz, Nancy Steen, Larry Switaj, Nickolas John Tedaro, Carmen Vega-Torres, 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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



Monday, Mar. 2

- + 6:30AM Susan Marucci
req Jim & Mary Pat Phillips
- + 8:30AM Kathy Gresco
req The Murphy & Hunt Families
- +12:00NN Andrea Schroen Bernstein
req The Schroen Family

Tuesday, Mar. 3 *Saint Katharine Drexel, Virgin*

- + 6:30AM Jim Roth
req Chris & Linda Weigl
- + 8:30AM Dec'd Members of the Carey Family
req Bobbie & Larry Roshon
- +12:00NN Moya McEnroe
req Monica & Ed McCabe

Wednesday, Mar 4 *Saint Casimir*

- + 6:30AM Theresa Hinton
req Greg Tondi & Family
- + 8:30AM Lucy Rieger
req Wanda Gozdz & Family
- +12:00NN Louise Ann Raleigh
req The Walsh Family

Thursday, Mar. 5

- + 6:30AM Mary Ann Hegquist
req The Bolduc Family
- + 8:30AM Dennis Meany
req Martin & Alice Mauro
- +12:00NN Dec'd Members of the Ardilla Family
req The Faimily

Friday, Mar. 6

- + 6:30AM Mary Frances Cone
req The Family
- + 8:30AM Harry Heny
req Jim & Doreen Delaney
- +12:00NN Mary Jordan
req Rebecca & John Jordan

Saturday, Mar. 7 *Saints Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs*

- + 8:30AM Bill & Ann Craven
req A Friend
- + 5:30PM Gertrudes E. Bautista
req Fe Roque

Sunday, Mar. 8 *Third Sunday of Lent*

- + 8:00AM Barbara Gehret
req Celeste O'Malley & Family
- + 9:30AM Charles Darku
req Friends @ Scale Microgrids
- 11:00AM For the People of the Parish
- +12:30PM Chaz & Charlie Lanski
req Gloria Lanski
- + 3:00PM Felix Antonio Liriano
req Belkis Alta Gracia Aponte
- + 6:30PM Theresa Gallin
req Mary & Bryan Lynch

TODAY'S READINGS

1. Genesis 12: 1-4a

In the early chapters of Genesis, a familiar pattern emerges, God bestows blessings that are consistently rejected. But in Abram (Abraham) God finds a worthy recipient, one who responds in faith and trust. Living with the uncertainties of his decision, Abram leaves his country, following God's word, in which he finds his security. For this faith and trust, Abraham's name, itself, will be a blessing for all the world.

2. Timothy 1: 8-10

Early in his letter to Timothy, to whom he gave the care of the church in Ephesus, Paul warns him that as a disciple he will face hardships, but hardships he can bear because he will have a strength that comes from God. And with this strength he can remain true to the Gospel in thought, word and deed. God and grace will always be present with a power that can transform any human weakness.

3. Matthew 17: 1-9

Jesus leads three chosen disciples to a high mountain where they see Jesus as they had never seen Him before – transfigured, described in terms of a brilliant sun and sparkling white clothes. More importantly, Moses (representing the Law) and Elijah (representing the Prophets) are also there, conversing with Jesus. But it is the voice from heaven that places the stamp of importance on this event – this is My Son, listen to Him. With the disappearance of Moses and Elijah, the message is now clear, all that has gone on before in God's revelation to His people is now captured, wrapped up, concluded in the Son Who will lead God's people to Himself.

Reflections for the Week

1. Like Abraham, have you ever felt God calling you toward an unknown goal?
2. Have you ever born "hardships" for the sake of the Gospel?
3. Have you ever felt an intense presence or experience of God in your life? Where and When? What came out of it?

NEXT WEEK'S PRESIDERS

Sat. 3/7	5:30PM	Fr. Ron
Sun. 3/8	8:00AM	Fr. John Carlos
Sun. 3/8	9:30AM	Fr. Jakov
Sun. 3/8	11:00AM	Fr. Ron
Sun. 3/8	12:30PM	Fr. Jakov
Sun. 3/8	3:00PM	Fr. John Carlos
Sun. 3/8	6:30PM	Fr. Ron

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



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