

# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday OF ADVENT

*Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church ~ One Passaic Street, Ridgewood, NJ 07450  
November 30, 2025*

PARISH DIRECTORY  
www.olmcridgewood.com

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Phone: 201.444.2000 Fax: 201.444.2002

Parish Office Hours

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

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Dear Friends,

“The hope born of the Gospel has nothing to do with a passive expectation that things might be better tomorrow, but with making God’s promise of salvation concrete today. Christian hope is not the naïve, even adolescent, optimism of those who hope that things may change and in the meantime go on with their life; it has to do with building daily, by concrete gestures, the kingdom of love, justice and fraternity that Jesus inaugurated.” (Pope Francis, address, World Day of the Poor, 2021).

These words of the late Pope frame the state of mind of hope and expectation that marks the season which we are entering this weekend, the *Season of Advent*. In the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Isaiah invites us to “Come, let us climb the Lord’s mountain.... that we may walk in his paths.” While in the Gospel the Lord invites us to “stay awake.” These are not passive words, as the late Pope reminds us. They are a call to action—to let the hope that is in us take shape in our words and in our actions, to build that Kingdom. Watch, for God is coming. The Word, the *Emmanuel*, the God-With-Us, the Christ is coming. In His life and through its glorification, we find the path to a better world, both in the life to come and as a program for living in the mess of this world (and doesn’t it seem to be in a mess). For us as Catholics, there is no other sure way, no other guiding light that can help us navigate and fill us with hope. Because He is the Way and the Truth and the Life, and the Light, as well, we are filled with hope and with the remembrance of His coming, never more so than in this season.

Welcome to *Advent*, the season of **Hope, in this Jubilee Year of Hope**, even as it’s winding down to its close on January 6. This is the theme, the focus of the season we are entering, *Advent*. Advent means “to come to,” to come to that moment when God would speak to us in an irrevocable way, assuring us of His presence not just at that moment in chronological history (4BC, when history tells us Jesus was born), but for all time. Advent is the time to remember that irrevocable moment, to live in a new way, aware of His presence, and by the way we live, to prepare the world for His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming.

How can we do this? While chronologically Advent goes hand in hand with shopping, decorating, sending Christmas greetings and socializing, it should be more. One way is to use the *Little Blue Books*, found at the doors of the church today, as a source of daily reflection. Another way is to use the ancient custom of the Advent wreath, praying and lighting a candle every evening at home before dinner. A third way is to begin the Advent season in reflection on its meaning and the meaning of the **Christ-Event** (Christmas) in our lives by attending the parish **Advent Evening of Reflection** this Monday evening, December 1, at 7:30 in the church. It will be given by Sarah Shutrop who is one of the principal writers for **Hallow**, a Catholic formation app. Sarah began her career here when we revamped our Jr. High Youth Ministry program and has been back many times to

give talks to the parents in our Religious Education/Formation program, When Families Gather. Those parents find her exceptionally motivational. And I know you will too. Join us for an exceptional evening tomorrow night.

Another way to live in a new way, aware of Christ's presence **in an extraordinary way**, is to read, or re-read, **33 Days To Eucharistic Glory**. Because it is not meant to be "read as a book," but almost as a 33 day retreat, it can extend through the entire Advent season, and beyond. Last week I told you I was going to re-read it, starting on Nov, 22<sup>nd</sup> so as to end on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>. I have since changed my mind and I will begin it on Dec, 5<sup>th</sup> so as to end simultaneously with the ending of the Jubilee Year of Hope, January 6<sup>th</sup>. There can be no greater source of hope than believing that the Lord lives with us in His gift of Himself in the Eucharist. As I mentioned last week, it is available from Amazon, as a paperback, an audio book or a Kindle book. So many people have experienced it. If you have not, maybe this Advent/Christmas season is the time to do that—33 days, one day at a time.

What could contain our **HOPE**, knowing a God lives with us. Rekindle that **HOPE** as we begin this Advent journey.

God bless,  
Fr. Ron

PS. If you haven't fulfilled your pledge to the diocesan **Annual Appeal**, please do so before December 31<sup>st</sup>, so that the parish will receive the rebate. Thank you.

### STEWARDSHIP

"For you do not know on which day your Lord will come...So too, you also must be prepared, for, at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." Black Friday has come and gone and we are all caught up in the "gift-giving" atmosphere. But what do we give to God? Why is it we tell God we want to give Him more of our **Time, Talent and Treasure**, but not yet, putting it off for another, more convenient hour? But today's Gospel reminds us that none of us knows when God will come and ask for an accounting of how we have used the gifts entrusted to our care. Are we sure we will be ready? The start of Advent reminds us not to put off our **Stewardship**. The Lord is coming!

Because this bulletin had to be submitted before the collection figure was known, the parish Stewardship of Treasure for last week will appear in next Sunday's bulletin. God bless all who are generous in their support of the Gospel and especially for using electronic giving, **WeShare and Venmo**.



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or scan the QR code here.

## Sharing Tree 2025

**Gift Cards Only Please**



As in the past, we are supporting organizations providing services to homeless women and children, nursing homes, survivors of human trafficking, an inner city parish as well as families and individuals within our own community.

The needs continue to be great so whatever help you can provide is greatly appreciated. Gift Cards, in any amount, for VISA, Amazon, Target, Shop Rite, and Walmart are needed.

Some organizations have requested gift cards be in \$25 increments. This provides greater flexibility in distributing to those in need. **Whatever the amount, please clearly identify the value of the card** (including the receipt is best). **This is especially important for Amazon gift cards!** Whatever generosity you can offer is greatly appreciated.

If you need assistance, or you know of someone in need, please contact Anne Denyeau. All requests are held in the strictest confidence.

**Please place Gift Card(s) in an envelope labeled "Sharing Tree" and drop-off at the Rectory office no later than Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. The mail slot may be used after hours.**

**DO NOT LEAVE GIFT CARDS IN THE CHURCH  
DO NOT WRAP GIFT CARDS**

**Questions? Contact Anne Denyeau  
annerafterydenyeau@gmail.com or 201.970.1798**

Checks, payable to OLMC with "Sharing Tree" on the memo line, may also be donated toward this effort.

### **Weekly Scripture Reflection Thursday Mornings Beginning THIS THURSDAY—December 4<sup>th</sup> Parish Center—10:30AM-11:45AM**

For more than a year a group of parishioners have met weekly to read, study, and share the meaning of the texts so as to prepare for the upcoming Scripture at weekend liturgy. Many have commented that it has deepened their faith and made a difference in their life.

**"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." ...St Jerome**

It is not necessary that you attend every Thursday, but if interested please contact **lenglish122@gmail.com, text 201.207.5920** so that materials may be available for you.

### **SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS**

The annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be held December 6 & 7. Proceeds support retired religious in the Archdiocese. Please give to those who have given a lifetime. Checks, payable to OLMC with RFR on the memo line, may be placed in the collection basket, dropped in the boxes at the doors of the church or dropped off/mailed to the rectory. This special collection is also available on WeShare.

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Religious Education  
Grades 1-6



### Advent Movie

### **The Best Christmas Pageant Ever**

Everyone is welcome to attend

#### Parish Center Showings

Sunday, December 7—10:45AM

Sunday, December 14—10:45AM

#### Hawthorne Movie Theatre Showing

Saturday, December 13—10:30 AM

Movie Attendance is free!

Concession Package with popcorn & soda is \$7/cash

The links to sign up will be on the parish website

### **First Reconciliation Preparation Sessions**

All children who will be receiving the Sacrament of First Reconciliation this year must attend one of the following sessions—all held in the Church.

Wednesday, December 3—4PM-5PM

Wednesday, December 3—7PM-8PM

Saturday, December 6—9AM-10AM

### **Inspire Young Adult Ministry**

### **Ugly Sweater Christmas Party and Toy Drive!**

**This Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>—7:30PM**

St. Gabriel's Church 88 E. Saddle River Rd., Saddle River

All Young Adults, ages 21-35, are invited to put on their best ugly Christmas sweater and join us for some Christmas fun! Admission—just bring a toy for our toy drive collection. **Please note the change of location shown above.**

**Questions? Email [olmcyoungadults123@gmail.com](mailto:olmcyoungadults123@gmail.com)**



**OLMC's Ministry of Motherhood  
MOMs MONTHLY MEETING  
THIS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>  
9:15AM—PARISH CENTER**

**Guest Speaker: Suzanne Barron**

**Topic—Finding Peace & Joy in Advent**

Already overwhelmed by the holiday season? Join us for a peaceful and meditative MOMs meeting this Wednesday. Suzanne will guide us in quick and simple ways to soothe both our own, and our families', nervous systems to help us reset and feel more grounded and present to ourselves, our families, and our holidays. For more information, email Alexis Kenny, [OLMCmomsridgewoodnj@gmail.com](mailto:OLMCmomsridgewoodnj@gmail.com) or go to [www.olmcmoms.com](http://www.olmcmoms.com)

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

### **Annual Men's Cornerstone Retreat**

**Friday, Jan. 30, 7:00PM—Saturday, Jan. 31, 9:00PM**

Don't miss this powerful 26 hour journey intentionally crafted to breathe new life into your faith, friendships, and sense of purpose. Registration link coming soon!



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 1736  
ANNUAL SENIOR CITIZEN  
CHRISTMAS PARTY  
SUNDAY—DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>  
1:30PM-4:00PM**

**PARISH CENTER—ALL SENIORS WELCOME!**

The Ridgewood Knights of Columbus will host the annual Senior Citizen Christmas Party, including lunch, music and entertainment, as well as a visit and gifts from Santa! Questions? Call Mike Megnin, 201.689.0562, or Mark Stappenbeck, 201.906.0102.

## *Advent Evening Of Reflection*

**Tomorrow Evening  
Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**

**7:30PM**

**Main Church**



**FEELING THE RUSH OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON  
BEFORE IT'S EVEN BEGUN?**

**JOIN US FOR AN ADVENT NIGHT OF  
REFLECTION INSPIRED BY HALLOW'S  
PRAY25: BE STILL CHALLENGE, LED BY  
SARAH SHUTROP, ONE OF THE LEAD  
CONTENT WRITERS AT HALLOW.**

**A STORYTELLER, AUTHOR, AND MOM OF  
TWO, SARAH HELPS CRAFT THE  
REFLECTIONS AND CHALLENGES THAT  
GUIDE MILLIONS TO GROW IN PRAYER  
THROUGH HALLOW'S APP.**

**TOGETHER, WE'LL PAUSE THE NOISE OF THE  
SEASON TO ENTER THE CHRISTMAS STORY  
FOR OURSELVES AS WE LET HIM SPEAK TO  
OUR HEARTS AS WE PREPARE FOR THE  
COMING OF CHRIST.**



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

Everyone is invited to participate in Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration. Stop by the chapel any time or, better yet, sign up for one Holy Hour that is good for you. Not sure of your schedule? Sign up as a Substitute Adorer.

**SCHEDULED ADORERS NEEDED**

Sundays: 2-3AM; Mondays: 5-6PM;  
Tuesdays: 1-2AM; Wednesdays: 2-3AM, 9-10PM;  
Saturdays: 5-6PM, 10-11PM, 11PM-12Midnight

**For more information**

**Contact Cynthia—551.574.1063, [cynthiabtorres@yahoo.com](mailto:cynthiabtorres@yahoo.com)**

Beginning Tomorrow, Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>

# Confession

**Special Advent Confession Schedule**  
**Monday Evenings 7:00PM-7:30PM ONLY**  
**Saturdays 1:00PM-2:00PM**

***A Thanksgiving Message  
From Fr. Felix***

Dear Msgr. Ron, Brother Priests, Staff & Parishioners,  
**GREETINGS & HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

As Thanksgiving is celebrated across the United States—a time to honor the blessings and generosity that enrich our lives—I extend, on behalf of OneHopeChildren Foundation and the children and families we serve in Nigeria, our heartfelt gratitude to you.

Thanksgiving reminds us to appreciate those whose compassion brings hope. We thank God for you. Your support, prayers, and openhearted generosity have brought light, nourishment, and opportunity to countless underserved children and families. Your giving truly reflects the spirit of Thanksgiving.

Because of you, children smile with renewed hope, families are strengthened, and our mission grows deeper each day. Your parish has become a true partner—lifting burdens, restoring dignity, and helping build a future where every child can thrive.

During this week of gratitude, please know how profoundly thankful we are. Your kindness reaches across the ocean, reminding us that compassion knows no distance.

May the Lord bless you, Msgr. Ron, the priests, staff, and every parishioner of Our Lady of Mount Carmel abundantly this Thanksgiving and always.

With heartfelt appreciation,  
Fr. Felix  
OneHopeChildren Foundation

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun. Nov. 30  | 1:30PM OCIA (MR)<br>1:30PM Hand Bell Choir Practice (PCB)<br>5:00PM MOMs Advent Dinner (PC)                                                                                                                        |
| Mon Dec. 1    | 1:00PM Staff Meeting (MR)<br>6:00PM SCC Core Team (PC)<br>7:00PM ISP Team Meeting (Library)<br>7:30PM Men's Cornerstone (MR)<br>7:30PM Advent Evening of Reflection (Church)                                       |
| Tues. Dec. 2  | 3:45PM Jr. High 7A (PC)<br>4:00PM Religious Ed Grades 1-6 (Gym)<br>5:00PM Choir Rehearsal (Church)<br>5:45PM Shrake Religious Ed (REC1)<br>7:30PM Finance Council Meeting (MR)<br>8:00PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW) |
| Wed. Dec. 3   | 9:15:AM MOMs Monthly Meeting (PC)<br>3:45PM Jr. High 7B (PC)<br>4:00PM First Penance Preparation (Church)<br>7:00PM First Penance Preparation (Church)<br>8:00PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)                         |
| Thurs. Dec. 4 | 10:30AM Sunday Liturgy Scripture Study (SMR)<br>7:00PM WCST Evening of Reflection (PC)                                                                                                                             |
| Fri. Dec. 5   | 9:00AM MOMs SALT 2 (SMR)<br>10:00AM WCST Bible Study (Library)<br>6:00PM MOMs Movie Night (PC)                                                                                                                     |
| Sat. Dec. 6   | 9:00AM First Penance Preparation (Church)<br>6:30PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)                                                                                                                                      |

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE ILL MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH**

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.

**DECEMBER EVENTS—MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Youth Ministry Monthly Food Drive  
Saturday, December 13, 9AM-12NN  
School Building Driveway

Jesus & Me Story Time for Ages 2-1/2-5 years old  
Saturday, December 20, 10:30AM  
Parish Center Meeting Room

**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



**TODAY'S READINGS**

**Monday, Dec. 1**

- + **6:30AM Sheila Chan**  
req Jane Meyers
- + **8:30AM Beatrice Donohue**  
req Rose Sullivan
- + **12:00NN Pasquale Benasillo**  
req The Cavagnuolo Family

**Tuesday, Dec. 2**

- + **6:30AM Leigh Creamer**  
req Vincent Presti & Family
- + **8:30AM Vincent Ceppaglia**  
req Jim & Patty Walmann
- + **12:00NN Mario Mastrangelo**  
req Corinne Lalli

**Wednesday, Dec. 3** *Saint Francis Xavier, Priest*

- + **6:30AM William O'Brien**  
req Brian Keegan
- + **8:30AM Angele Ekert**  
req The Bolduc Family
- + **12:00NN Robert Skrivaneck**  
req Linda Bullaro & Family

**Thursday, Dec. 4** *Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church*

- + **6:30AM Kathy Dean**  
req Ed & Eileen Halsch
- + **8:30AM Donald Blau**  
Rreq The Blau Family
- + **12:00NN Helli Unger Engel & Edward Engel**  
req Patricia & Richard Engel

**Friday, Dec. 5**

- + **6:30AM Roman Gata**  
req Maria & Robert Guhr
- + **8:30AM Doris & Howard Harvier**  
req The Blau Family
- + **12:00NN Anna Maria Lobascio**  
req Paula Hoffmann

**Saturday, Dec. 6** *Saint Nicholas, Bishop*

- + **8:30AM Gervasio Factura, Jr.**  
req His Family
- + **5:30PM John Schmitt**  
req Richard & Patricia Pazer

**Sunday, Dec. 7** *Second Sunday of Advent*

- 8:00AM For the People of the Parish**
- + **9:30AM Kay & Nick Maltezos**  
req The Lewis Family
- + **11:00AM Bill Frank**  
req Joanne Archer
- + **12:30PM Olga Lord**  
req Her Daughters
- + **3:00PM Maria Gisela Rozon**  
req Marlene Almonte
- + **6:30PM John Lavin**  
req His Family

**ADVENT MORNING PRAYER—ALL ARE WELCOME  
MONDAY-FRIDAY | 6:00AM**

Join us for morning prayer this Advent season every Monday through Friday at 6:00AM in the lower level of the school building. Enter through the rear door.

**1. Isaiah 2:1-5**

Living in a world of constant conflict, shifting political alliances, fear and weariness, the prophet speaks a word of hope. As the oracle begins, Isaiah's words constitute a vision of better times, when the nations would recognize that God's ways and God's instructions were the true path to life and fulfillment. The nations, making their way to Jerusalem, the highest mountain where God's instruction is to be found, will discard the weapons of war and destruction, turning them into implements that build rather than destroy. For all this to happen, all must submit to God and His wisdom.

**2. Romans 13:11-14**

It is not enough to hope for better times. Though the disciple is saved only by the grace of God that comes in Jesus Christ (the first chapters of Romans), he/she must actively put that grace into practice. The believer is empowered by the Spirit to live by faith, already sharing in the blessings of justification, peace, reconciliation, redemption and salvation. The anticipated future salvation already provides a model for their identity and behavior right now. (Advent may be a time of waiting for the coming Christ, but not of waiting to face the challenges of living as Christ).

**3. Matthew 24:37-44**

As we begin our year of readings from the Gospel of Matthew, the reflections begin with reference to the end—the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus Christ. And what is the message—the need for vigilance. Whether the example of Noah (business as usual for most), the men in the field, or women at the mill (in each case, one ready, one not), or the thief in the night, the message is the same, being prepared is a full-time way of life. No signs, no strange happenings, no wild speculation. Only daily living, faithfully, fully committed, witnessing to the Good News in word and deed.

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

1. As much as Isaiah, living in a world of constant conflict, shifting political alliances, fear and weariness, do you have hope? Where do you find it? Think of as many places as possible? Is God in there?
2. In this Advent season of "waiting," what are you really waiting for (in terms of Jesus Christ)?
3. In what ways do you concretely long for the reign of God?

**NEXT WEEK'S PRESIDERS**

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

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



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