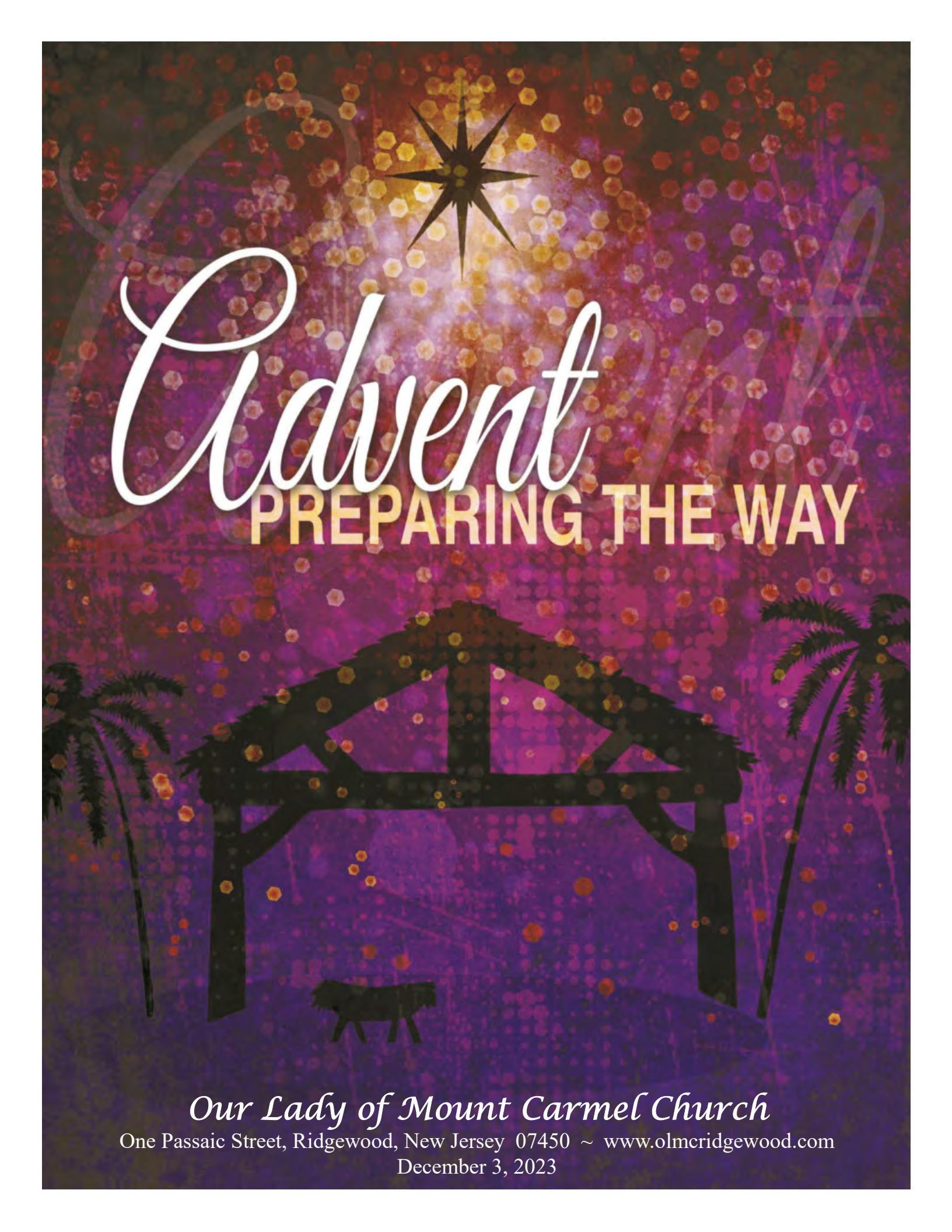


The background of the poster is a deep purple with a dense pattern of small, glowing orange and yellow hexagonal shapes, resembling stars or snow. At the top center is a black, multi-pointed star with a bright yellow center. In the lower half, there is a black silhouette of a stable structure with a thatched roof. To the left and right of the stable are palm trees. In front of the stable is a small black silhouette of a donkey.

Advent

PREPARING THE WAY

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

One Passaic Street, Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450 ~ www.olmcridgewood.com

December 3, 2023



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

SERVED BY

Rev. Msgr. Ronald J. Rozniak, P.A., Pastor

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Ex. 203, fjfano@olmcridgewood.com

Rev. Jakov Vidov, Parochial Vicar

Ex. 202, jvidov@olmcridgewood.com

Rev. Mert J. Cordero, Valley Hospital Chaplain

Rev. Stephen Toth, Valley Hospital Chaplain

Valley Pastoral Care Office: 201.447.8148

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robert_thomann@msn.com

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Ext. 403, nmckenna@olmcridgewood.com

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 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 1st Reading, Isaiah prays the Lord would "rend the heavens and come down, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for..." while in the Gospel the Lord invites us to "Be watchful! Be alert!" These are not passive words, as the 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.

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 2nd 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 new way to make Advent come alive is to go to the parish website and engage in **THE TRAVELS OF MARY AND JOSEPH**, accompanying the couple as they travel on their journey to Bethlehem, with a new stop everyday, to help us remember the real focus of the season. This is especially designed for families and you can find more info about it on page 4 of this bulletin.

As we begin Advent, we also begin a new Liturgical Year. I have mentioned before that the Church uses a three year cycle of readings for the whole liturgical year, appropriately called Year A, Year B and Year C. We just finished Year A in which the Gospel of Matthew is highlighted. We now enter Year B, the Year of Mark and I want to remind you of a few

characteristics of the Gospel of Mark. The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the Gospels and generally accepted by most scholars as the first written, sometime between 64 and 70 AD, 30 years after the Paschal Mystery and before the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Romans. The author is generally accepted as a disciple of Peter, from whose preaching and teaching about Jesus Mark drew his material. But this does not mean that Peter dictated a Gospel to Mark. Rather, the material in the Gospel represents Mark's recollection of Peter's teachings which he (Mark) then arranged in his own order.

Mark tells us right at the beginning, in the very first words, what will follow. "The beginning of the Gospel (Good News) of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." No hesitation there. The remainder of the Gospel goes to telling that Good News. This is the time of fulfillment (of all that the Old Testament promised), the kingdom is near, the only response is faith. And the fulfillment is found, not in a body of propositions, but in a person, Jesus, the Christ. Especially because Mark doesn't include an Infancy Narrative in his Gospel (such as in Matthew and Luke), the reader is thrown immediately into the hope of which I wrote in the lines above; we can have hope because the Good News is that God has come among us, as one of us.

The Gospel of Mark recounts what Jesus did in a vivid style, an almost breathless narrative, where one incident follows directly after another. 410 of Mark's 678 verses begin with "AND," and over 40 times is followed by "immediately." It is almost as if Mark is in a hurry to tell the reader the story so that the reader may enter into this life of faith in Jesus as soon as he/she can. Along with this immediacy is the strong emotional response of Jesus to the realities of life, as we, ourselves, face them. Mark does not hesitate to portray Jesus in all His emotional complexity: compassion, love, sympathy, indignation, amazement, anger, exasperation, distress or sorrow. Mark portrays a profoundly human Jesus: the Son of God who is truly the Son of Man.

What could contain our **HOPE**, knowing a God Who would do that for 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 31st, so that the parish will receive the rebate. Thank you.



Please prayerfully consider
joining fellow parishioners
By supporting
Our Lady of Mt Carmel
through a recurring online gift.



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

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED THIS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH
In Observance of Feast of The Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary, all parish offices will be closed this Friday.
Our Mass schedule is Thursday—7:30PM (anticipated)
Friday—6:30AM, 8:30AM and 12:00 Noon
A priest is always available for emergencies.

STEWARDSHIP

"I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way." **Stewardship** recognizes how "enriched" I am through the gracious favor of a God Who loves me. **Stewardship** is my response to that enrichment, giving back to God some of the "riches" with which I am enriched, **Time, Talent and Treasure**, in gratitude, for the building of God's Kingdom. Do you realize His enrichment in your life?

The Stewardship of Treasure in the in pew collection last week was \$13,101. For the weekend of 11/19 it was \$14,354. The Stewardship of Treasure for the 4 weekends of November was \$109,787. It was received as follows:

WeShare Online Giving:	\$48,390
In Pew/Mailed to the Rectory:	\$61,397

Thank you to all who are so generous in giving their gifts to continue to build the Kingdom.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

We are returning the practice of receiving from the cup to the 6:30PM Sunday evening Mass this weekend, the first Sunday of Advent. Because ministers of Holy Communion are not assigned at this Mass, we always look for volunteers. If you are an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, please look to come up after the Sign of Peace. If you are a regular at the 6:30 and would like to be a minister, please contact Fr. Frank.

discovering
Christ

CHRISTLIFE 2024:
DISCOVERING CHRIST
Beginning January 9th
Six Tuesday Evenings
7:00PM-9:15PM
Dinner Included

CHRISTMAS MASS GREETERS



There's *so* much to love about Christmas, but the thing we're *most* excited about during this time of year is that people who don't *regularly* join us, *will* definitely be joining us. And guess what? We can't *wait*. It's part of what we love about being a Christ-follower: sharing the love of Christ with anyone, anywhere, anytime!

So, this Christmas, we're going to need *your help* to make this a *great* experience for them (and for us!). And it's SO SIMPLE: be a GREETER at the Christmas Mass of your choosing. All you'll need to do is sign-up with the QR Code.

You can serve by *yourself*, with a *friend*, or even your *family*! Make it as *fun* as you want! Wear ugly Christmas sweaters, bring bells. Or not! You'll personally open a door *before* and *after* Mass for each person sharing your friendly, warm presence with your guests.

Come at *least* a half an hour before, so you can be at your post, ready to go. We'll even have a pew reserved for you at the 4pm and 5:30pm. Give it a prayer. Give it a thought. Sign up. Love you all.
~Fr. Frank

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Religious Education—When Families Gather

Monday, December 4 | 7PM-8PM | Chapel
Parent Only Session

Sunday, December 10

Families Attend 9:30AM or 6:30PM Mass
Mass will Include a Presentation on the Nativity

FAMILY CHRISTMAS PHOTO SHOOT

Sunday, December 10
Following the
9:30AM & 6:30PM Masses



You're welcome to have a family photo taken in the Parish Center following either of these two Masses. We'll have two professional photographers and a Christmas themed background.

No Appointments Necessary! ~ No Pets Permitted!

Photos will be available within two weeks on the parish website.

PARISH FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT



FRIDAY
DECEMBER 15TH
7:00PM

All families are invited to a special viewing of the Christmas Movie: THE STAR. Wear your Christmas jammies (or any jammies)! Bring your favorite pillow, blanket, beanbag chair, etc.

Bring a water bottle! ~ Popcorn will be provided!

THIS ADVENT FOLLOW THE TRAVELS OF MARY & JOSEPH!

Each day during Advent we will place a photo (on our website & Facebook page) of Mary and Joseph along with their donkey, Boaz ("Bo" to his friends) as they journey to different places on their way to the Nativity on Christmas Day. You might be amazed at some of the places they will visit!

For the children in your family (or those with a child-like heart) there will be a map on our website that you can print out and chronicle their destination each day. As they travel, they may also give you some activities to do as we prepare for Christmas Day!

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT & MARRIAGE PREPARATION
Thursday Evenings | 8PM-9PM | January 11-March 14

Retreat Saturday, March 16

Lower Level of the School Building

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

ACADEMY OF OUR LADY

Please support our Parish School
Academy of Our Lady's Annual Appeal.
Scan here to give!



YOUTH MINISTRY MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE

THIS COMING SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

SCHOOL BUILDING DRIVEWAY—9AM-12NN

These Food Drives support: Fr. English Food Pantry, Social Services Association, Ridgecrest Senior Living and Healing Meals. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by those served.

URGENT NEED FOR FR. ENGLISH!

Breakfast Items—See Below

**Peanut Butter, Jelly, Oatmeal, Cereal, Pop Tarts,
Muffin & Pancake Mix, Syrup, Granola Bars**

FR. ENGLISH PANTRY—FROZEN TRAY MINISTRY

PANS/RECIPES AVAILABLE AT ALL MASSES THIS WEEKEND

FROZEN CASSEROLE DROP OFF—NEXT SATURDAY, DEC. 9TH

(AT OUR MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE—9AM-12NN)

Please help us provide frozen casseroles to the Fr. English Food Pantry this month. Easy recipe options are provided with pans and lids. Casseroles must be FROZEN. Thank you for your generosity!

Questions? Call/Text Barbara—201.615.9624

Ministry of Motherhood (MOMs) MEETING THIS WEDNESDAY

DECEMBER 6TH—9:15AM—PARISH CENTER

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

Guest Speaker: Miranda Anderson
Topic: The Power of Positive Psychology

Join us as Miranda Anderson, author, podcast host and Master of Applied Positive Psychology, leads us in conversation on the Power of Positive Psychology. Miranda will share practical examples we can use in our everyday lives.

**For more information, go to www.olmcmoms.com or
email Jackie Carter at OLMCmomsridgewoodnj@gmail.com**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Presents...

**An Evening of Advent & Christmas Music
And Tree Lighting**

This Friday Dec. 8th—7:30PM-Main Church

Free Will Offering

Benefits the Sharing Tree

**Checks may be made payable to OLMC
(with "Concert" on the memo line)**

Reception to Follow in the Parish Center

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Aedan Cannon, Matthew Casale, Edgar Delgado, Durkin McCarthy, John Morano, James Nardelli, Robert Smith

**PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
(PEA)**

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



SCHEDULED ADORERS URGENTLY NEEDED

Sundays: 9-10AM, 10-11AM; Mondays: 2-3AM, 5-6PM
Fridays: 4-5PM, 6-7PM; Saturdays: 6-7PM

Contact Cynthia—551.574.1063, cynthiabtorres@yahoo.com

**TIME TO CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSETS!
GENTLY USED CLOTHING DRIVE**

NOW THROUGH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

Run for Hope Foundation is collecting gently used clothing as well as coats/jackets, shoes/sneakers, hats/gloves and NEW T-Shirts & socks. Collection boxes will be in the vestibule of the church through Sunday, December 10. Donations will benefit Fr. English Pantry, Market Street Mission, St. James Social Services in Newark and other agencies in need.

Questions? Call Frank Del Vecchio, 551.804.8917



Have you or someone you know received a prenatal diagnosis? If so, you are not alone. **My Beautiful One** is a ministry of accompaniment, serving parents carrying to term following a prenatal diagnosis. Our service is free and focuses on meeting the pastoral needs of expectant parents as they

seek to honor the life of their baby, no matter how frail or how brief.

For information or support, email us at my.beautiful.one@rcan.org or visit our website www.rcan.org/my-beautiful-one. One of our Parent Care Coordinators, Leah Sonnick or Kathleen Ranft, will respond to your inquiry within 24 hours.



My Beautiful One ministry does not provide healthcare advice or treatment, does not collect any payments for services provided, and is not a covered entity engaging in covered transactions under HIPAA.

Sharing Tree 2023

Gift Cards Only Please

**Please drop gift cards off at the Rectory
no later than next Monday, December 11th**

Gift Cards, for VISA, Amazon, Target, Shop Rite, and Walmart are needed. Gift cards, in \$25 increments, provide greater flexibility in distributing to those in need. Whatever the amount, please clearly identify the value of the card (including the receipt is best). Whatever generosity you can offer is greatly appreciated.

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

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

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sun. Dec. 3	1:00PM Bell Choir (PCB) 1:30PM RCIA (MR) 2:15PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 4:00PM MOMs Advent Dinner (PC) 5:00PM Jr. High 7C (MR) 7:30PM Jr. High 7D (MR) 7:30PM Curtis/Fitzgerald Conf. Group (YCA) 7:30PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)
Mon. Dec. 4	5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:00PM WFG Parents Only Session (PC) 7:30PM Men's Cornersone (MR) 7:30PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)
Tue Dec. 5	3:45PM Jr. High 8A (PC) 4:00PM Religious Education (Gym) 5:00PM Choir Rehearsal (Church) 5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:30PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)
Wed Dec. 6	9:15AM MOMs Monthly Meeting (PC) 3:45PM Jr. High 8B (PC) 5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:00PM Choir Concert Rehearsal (Church) 7:30PM Quiroz Confirmation Group (REC1) 7:30PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)
Thu Dec. 7	10:30AM Scripture Reflection (SMR) 4:00PM First Penance Prep (Church) 5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:00PM First Penance Prep (PC)
Fri. Dec.. 8	5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:30PM Advent/Christmas Concert (Church)
Sat Dec. 9	8:30AM Men's Basketball (Gym) 9:00AM AoOL Girls Basketball (Gym) 9:00AM First Penance Prep (Church/Chapel) 9:00AM Monthly Food Drive (Parking Lot) 12:00NN CYO Basketball (Gym) 6:00PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 1736

ANNUAL SENIOR CITIZEN CHRISTMAS PARTY

SUNDAY—DEC. 17TH | 1:30PM-4:00PM

PARISH CENTER—ALL SENIORS WELCOME!

Questions? Call Mike, 201.689.0562, or Mark, 201.906.0102

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE ILL MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH

Gilbert Badillo, Frederick Bruno, Art Carpenter, Kimberly Parsons Daub, Marie Evans, Kay & Bill Forster, Joan D'Gerolamo, Agnes Duffy, Kenneth Gershbert, Frank Gillen, Susan Hart-White, Patricia Haug, Joseph Hyon, Marc Johnson, Tom Keleher, Claudia LaFrance, Joseph Letiza, Anna Lobascio, Joel Lustberg, Cambell McArthur, Margaret Peak, Cathy Ricciuto, Francis Tedaro Ristor, Michael Runz, Don Strittmatter, Larry Switaj, Nickolas John Tedaro, Dennis Tomala, 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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



TODAY'S READINGS

Monday, Dec. 4 *Saint John Damascene,
Priest & Doctor of the Church*

+ **6:30AM Elizabeth O'Brien**

req The Calvetti Family

**8:30AM Special Intention
of Steve & Leah Sonnick**

req The Lynch Family

+**12:00NN Helene "Helli" Unger Engel**

req Patricia & Richard Engel

Tuesday, Dec. 5

+ **6:30AM Michael Kiernan**

req Dennis & Jackie Farrelly

+ **8:30AM Betty Hunt**

req Peggy & Chris Sullivan

+**12:00NN Betty Steen**

req Priscilla Farnsworth

Wednesday, Dec. 6 *Saint Nicholas, Bishop*

+ **6:30AM Frank Sr. & Kathleen Reilly**

req Bob & Marge Reilly

+ **8:30AM Mario Jacovino**

req Phil Arfuso

+**12:00NN Jack McCooe**

req The McCooe Family

Thursday, Dec. 7 *Saint Ambrose,
Bishop & Doctor of the Church*

+ **6:30AM Fortuna Genot**

req Michelle & Joel Lustberg

+ **8:30AM Nicholas Maltezos**

req The Lewis Family

+**12:00NN Mario Jacovino**

req His Family

**7:30PM Special Intention of
Angelina Mia Mazzola & +Rocco Alfieri**

req Mitch & Judy Santlofer

Friday, Dec. 8 *The Immaculate Conception
of The Blessed Virgin Mary*

+ **6:30AM Margaret & Stan Gordon**

req Patricia & David Hughes

+ **8:30AM John F. Donoghue**

req His Family

+**12:00NN Sanna Brizzi**

req Dolores Morrison

Saturday, Dec. 9 *Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin*

+ **8:30AM Angelica Galasso**

req Her Mother, Stefania

+ **5:30PM Danny McGinley**

req His Family

Sunday, Dec. 10 *Second Sunday of Advent*

8:00AM Special Intention of Sheinna Ramos

req The Family

+ **9:30AM Maureen McGovern**

req The Moore Family

+**11:00AM Don Mellon & Bernie Casella**

req Anne & George Skau

+**12:30PM For the People of the Parish**

+ **3:00PM Oscar Bedoya & Nelly Nino**

req The Bedoya Family

+ **6:30PM Deceased Members
of the Grasso & Davina Families**

req Laura Grasso

1. Isaiah 63:16-17, 19, 64: 2-7

The prominent theme of Isaiah is that the plight of the nation, defeat and exile, is the direct result of its infidelity. But in exile in a foreign land they learn to surrender themselves anew to God, Who gives them healing. Today's excerpted passage is part of a longer lament in which Israel is reminded of all that God has done for them, leading them to repentance and a change of heart. Recognizing their sinfulness and, therefore, their helplessness, they cry out to Him.

2. 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Despite the berating that will come later, Paul breaks into a prayer of thanksgiving for the community at Corinth. He celebrates the grace of God that has made them one and the gifts of God that enabled them to live the life of Christ. In spite of their failings, Paul compliments them because he is confident that God the Father will be faithful and make them irreproachable to the end.

3. Mark 13:33-37

As this Advent season begins, we follow the Liturgical Year from the Gospel of Mark. Chapter 13 (there are only 16 chapters in Mark) is characterized as an eschatological discourse, looking to the 2nd Coming and the end times. This brief passage revolves around the mandate to watch and be alert. The challenge in being prepared is that the timeline is open-ended. The day and the hour is unknown. So, one should live each day as if that were the day.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK

1. Do I see myself as the work of God's hands? What changes could I make to better shape myself into what God intended?
2. When have I ignored the importance of others in my life? What can I do to be more alert?
3. In these difficult days, what do I see as I look ahead to the future? Hope? Encouragement? What can I do to ensure that God is in that future?

NEXT WEEKEND'S PRESIDERS

(always subject to change)

Sat.	12/9	5:30PM	Fr. Frank
Sun.	12/10	8:00AM	Fr. Ron
		9:30AM	Fr. Jakov
		11:00AM	Fr. Frank
		12:30PM	Fr. Ron
		3:00PM	Fr. Betancourt
		6:30PM	Fr. Jakov

Late changes appear on the website after 12:00NN on the Saturday of that weekend.



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