

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church
December 10, 2024

2nd

Sunday
OF ADVENT



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www.olmcridgewood.com

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Dear Friends,

A big thank you to the MOM's for a beautiful Advent Dinner last Sunday. What a great way to begin Advent by spending time with so many parish families. The enthusiasm, the joy, the excitement. Thank you.

We all know a principle theme of Advent is—**waiting**, waiting for the fulfillment of the promise of salvation, especially in the coming of the **Word** of the Father, Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God. As I mentioned last week, that's how Mark begins his Gospel. But each week of Advent strikes its own individual theme or themes. Last week, the Church invited us to reflect on two realities in our lives as Christians, our *wandering* and our *watchfulness*.

Using the words of Isaiah the prophet, we are reminded that we have **wandered** away from the Lord. If we're honest with ourselves, we know this is true. And not just through our sinfulness. If wandering implies a loss of focus, a loss of direction, a loss of connectedness with and from the Lord, there are so many things that can cause this—the state of violence and upheaval in our world, the “violence of the language we use against one another with whom we disagree, the legitimate concerns we have in raising our children providing opportunities for their education (especially college), the fears about drug addiction, social media, the care of aging parents. etc., etc. I could go on and on. You know what I'm talking about. All those circumstances of 21st Century living that can push God, if not out of our lives, at least to the periphery of our attention. And I'm not saying that's sinful. It simply pushes God away, and we **wander**, losing focus, pushed around by the currents of modern living.

And that brings us to the second watchword from last week's liturgy—*watchfulness*. God wants to be a part of this—this messiness of our lives. God wants us to know that He cares and that He wants to walk with us in this sometimes very confused journey. **God with us—Emmanuel**, this is His promise in His Incarnate Son. This is what we celebrate on 12/25. But not just on that date, but every day, from that date onward, until the fullness of the Kingdom is revealed. So the need for watchfulness—every day, to be attentive for the voice of God and the hands of God and the love of God. God wants to insert Himself in our lives, especially in those challenging moments when His presence can bring, calm, peace and meaning and keep us from **wandering** like a child lost in the Westfield Garden State Plaza.

The watchword for today's readings is really a phrase “Here is your God, He comes ...” Both the 1st reading from Isaiah and the Gospel invite us to believe what the readings told us last week, be watchful for the Lord because He wants to insert Himself into your life, and when He does mountains will be leveled, valleys will be filled in, crooked road will be made straight. When He inserts Himself into your daily life, and you watch for that, He carries, gathers

and feeds. What more could be asked for from this God who loves us and becomes enfleshed to assure us of that presence, of that love? Who would not want the presence of that God? But you, and I, must be watchful to recognize it when it happens. Trust God's promise in these readings, and in this season of Advent that He will do what He says and be ready for it.

Last week, I mentioned, almost as an afterthought, about the Annual Appeal of the Archdiocese. I just want to mention it again. For all those parishioners who made pledges over the course of this past year, please take the opportunity to complete the pledge before Dec. 31, 2023 so the parish gets the full benefit of the rebate. And thank you, again, to the 488 members of the parish who supported the Appeal. Maybe next year we can get that number up to 500.

God's continued blessings for a fruitful Advent season.
Fr. Ron

STEWARDSHIP

"Prepare the way of the Lord..." Mark tells us in the opening of his Gospel, quoting the prophet Isaiah. We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, does just that—it puts us on the path to holiness and it invites others to be holy, too. For the Christian Steward, that holiness shows itself in our gifts of **Time, Talent and Treasure** for the building of the Kingdom.

The parish Stewardship of Treasure last week was \$14,984. God bless all who generously share the fruits of their labor for the spread of the Gospel and the care of this community of faith. Make this Advent a time of new beginnings, try using online giving—**WeShare**—as a new way of supporting the Gospel.



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

Sharing* Tree 2023

Gift Cards Only Please

Please drop gift cards off at the Rectory

DEADLINE—TOMORROW, MONDAY, DECEMBER 11th

For anyone reading the online bulletin Friday...

**YOUTH MINISTRY MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE
AND FROZEN CASSEROLE DROP OFF**

THIS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

SCHOOL BUILDING DRIVEWAY—9AM-12NN

Fr. English is in urgent need of breakfast items!

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

CHRISTMAS MASS GREETERS



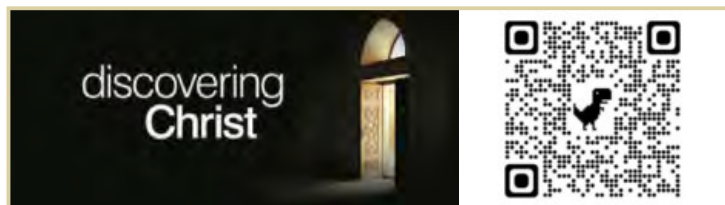
There's *so* much to love about Christmas, but the thing we're *most* excited about during this time of year is that people who don't *regularly* join us, *will* definitely be joining us. And guess what? We can't *wait*. It's part of what we love about being a Christ-follower: sharing the love of Christ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



CHRISTLIFE 2024: DISCOVERING CHRIST

Six Tuesday Evenings

JANUARY 9—FEBRUARY 13 | 7:00pm-9:15pm (Dinner Included)

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Center

What you can expect:

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- * TIME & CONVERSATION WITH OTHERS
- * A JOYFUL & CELEBRATORY ATMOSPHERE
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Who's it for?

Lifelong Catholics. Non-Catholics. Skeptics. Questioners. Anyone! You: "Yes, but the Church wouldn't want a person like *me there*." Us: "Well, then you're the person we *want there*."

Join Fr. Frank and the ChristLife Team and see for yourself. It's not your typical Church event—we can promise you that!

Registration Required! Reserve your place today!

Register by scanning the QR code, calling 201.444.2000 x200, or emailing lobby@olmcridgewood.com

PARISH FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

THIS COMING FRIDAY

DECEMBER 15TH, | 7:00PM | PARISH CENTER

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!

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Religious Education—When Families Gather

Sunday, December 10th

Families Attend 9:30AM or 6:30PM Mass
Mass will include a presentation of The Nativity

Monday, December 11th—7PM-8PM

Presentation of The Nativity in the Church

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

&

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Thursday Evenings—8PM-9PM

January 11—March 14

Retreat Saturday, March 16

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



CONTINUE FOLLOWING

THE TRAVELS OF MARY & JOSEPH THIS ADVENT!

Check our website or Facebook page each day during Advent to see the photo of Mary & Joseph, along with the donkey, Boaz—"Bo" We are following their 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's a map on our website that you can print and chronicle their destination each day. As they travel, they may also give you some activities to do as we prepare for Christmas Day!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 1736

ANNUAL SENIOR CITIZEN CHRISTMAS PARTY

NEXT SUNDAY—DEC. 17TH

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

ACADEMY OF OUR LADY

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



MEN'S CORNERSTONE ANNUAL RETREAT FRIDAY-SATURDAY—JANUARY 26-27, 2024

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 LVIII. Consider it a gift to yourself.



Questions/More Information
Contact Manny Santos, msm@mikavi.com

2023 CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

RECONCILIATION PENANCE SERVICE

Wednesday, December 20th—7:30PM

CONFESSION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH—1:00PM-2:00PM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18TH—7:00PM-8:00PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23RD—1:00PM-2:00PM

NO CONFESSIONS CHRISTMAS EVE

MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00PM* 5:30PM* 7:00PM

Carols Begin at 11:30PM

MIDNIGHT

***Mass will be celebrated in both the
Church and the Auditorium at this time.**

MONDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00AM 9:30AM 11:00AM 12:30PM

12:30PM (SPANISH-AUDITORIUM)

NO 6:30PM MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

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!



"If you don't pray, if you don't adore, your life is worth little."
~Pope Francis' address to a gathering of Latino priests.

The above line is also true to all Catholics. We need to pray and keep in touch with Jesus each day—to adore, to constantly cleanse ourselves of negativity, to give thanks, and to ask for direction/wisdom.

Come stop by the Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration chapel any time. It is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! Better yet, sign up for one hour, once a week every week to adore Jesus Christ.

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



**CALLING
ALL SANTA'S
HELPERS!**

We will decorate the church for the Feast of the Nativity **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21st**, immediately following the 8:30am Mass. We would be grateful for anyone who can help—even for a little while—with stringing lights, climbing ladders, arranging poinsettias, etc.

Today is the last day to drop off...

GENTLY USED CLOTHING DRIVE

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

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.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sun. Dec. 10	10:30AM Family Christmas Photo Session (PC) 1:00PM Bell Choir (PCB) 1:30PM RCIA (MR) 2:15PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 4:00PM Spanish Apostolate (PC) 4:30PM Spanish>English Class (Library) 5:00PM Jr. High 8C (MR) 7:00PM Nally Confirmation Group (YCA) 7:30PM Jr. High 8D (MR)
Mon. Dec. 11	5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:00PM WFG Advent Family Session-Church
Tue Dec. 12	3:45PM Jr. High Grade 7 Makeup (PC) 4:00PM Religious Education (Gym) 5:00PM Choir Rehearsal (Church) 5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:30PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)
Wed Dec. 13	3:45PM Jr. High Grade 8 Makeup (PC) 5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:00PM Spanish Choir Rehearsal (Church) 7:15PM WCST Team 23 (MR) 7:30PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)
Thu Dec. 14	10:30AM Scripture Reflection (SMR) 5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 5:00PM Jr. High Social/Gift Wrapping (PC)
Fri. Dec.. 15	9:30AM MOMs SALT (SMR) 5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:00PM Family Movie Night "The Star" (PC)
Sat Dec. 16	7:30AM Men's Cornerstone (MR) 8:30AM Men's Basketball (Gym) 9:00AM AoOL Girls Basketball (Gym) 12:00NN CYO Basketball (Gym) 6:00PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)

Archdiocese Announces New Ministry My Beautiful One



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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



TODAY'S READINGS

Monday, Dec. 11 *Saint Damasus I, Pope*

- + **6:30AM Daniel Jose**
req The Wilkins Family & Melinda Jose
- + **8:30AM Hans Apelles**
req Anne & George Skau
- + **12:00NN Barbara & Eileen Wells**
req Their Family

Tuesday, Dec. 12 *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

- + **6:30AM Margaret & Stan Gordon**
req Patricia & David Hughes
- + **8:30AM Robert Johnston**
req Louise Haner
- + **12:00NN Annie Ivers**
req Nancy & Vito Nardelli

Wednesday, Dec. 13 *Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr*

- + **6:30AM Arturo Benemerito**
req Judy & Mitch Santlofer
- + **8:30AM Lou Lembo**
req Ann & Bill Leahy
- + **12:00NN Louis Lembo**
req John & Jean Boyle

Thursday, Dec. 14 *Saint John of the Cross,
Priest and Doctor of the Church*

- + **6:30AM Vincent DePaul**
req The Taddei Family
- + **8:30AM Fortuna Genot**
req Michelle & Joel Lustberg
- + **12:00NN Christopher Zula**
req Ann & Bill Leahy

Friday, Dec. 15

- + **6:30AM Vincent DePaul**
req The DeNoy Family
- + **8:30AM Ann & Don Pirone**
req Louise Haner
- + **12:00NN Moya McEnroe**
req Jean & John Boyle

Saturday, Dec. 16

- + **8:30AM Elizabeth Hunt**
req Guy & Rose Anne Amoresano
- + **5:30PM Frank & Paula Bergen**
req Adele Bergen

Sunday, Dec. 17 *Third Sunday of Advent*

- + **8:00AM Paul Jarboe**
req Brian & Anne O'Reilly
- + **9:30AM Moya McEnroe**
req Monica & Ed McCabe
- + **11:00AM Alpheus Farnsworth**
req Priscilla Farnsworth
- + **12:30PM Francisco Sanabria**
req Terry Sanabria-Reedy
- + **3:00PM Alba & Camilo Garcia**
req Patricia & Richard Engel
- + **6:30PM For the People of the Parish**

1. **Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11**

Chapter 40 begins the *Book of Comfort*. The first thirty nine chapters of Isaiah constituted a warning to Israel about the consequences of its infidelity, resulting in exile and deprivation. The prophet has now received a different commission, announced in the twice-repeated opening of today's reading—to give comfort to the people. Even in the throes of their most desperate struggles, God's presence brings good news: peace, reconciliation and restoration would come to a people once they had learned through repentance to be receptive to God's word.

2. **2 Peter 3:8-14**

Of all of the New Testament writings, 2 Peter speaks most realistically to our present world, located as we are between the first and the final comings of Jesus. Probably the last-written of all the New Testament writings, this letter acknowledges the difficulty of believing in and waiting for the 2nd Coming. The author explains that human calendars have no relevance to God and that this "time" offers a continued opportunity for repentance. When the time comes, God will purify the world and renew all creation.

3. **Mark 1:1-8**

As mentioned in last week's pastor's column, Mark begins his Gospel with a straight-forward profession of faith "the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Mark wants the reader to know that he fully recognizes the divinity of Jesus even though his story will portray the humanity of Jesus more radically than any of the other Gospels. John the Baptist is introduced as the precursor, preparing the people by calling them to a baptism of repentance. Likened to Elijah (by clothing and diet), the Baptist, nonetheless, acknowledges he is not the Messiah; another will come who will be.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK

1. When my life seems like a desert, when nothing seems to be going right, do I take "comfort" in my Shepherd-God?
2. Which of Isaiah's strong images (in the 1st Reading) strikes me the most now in my life?
3. How might I be a joyful "herald of good news" this Advent in a world filled with so much tension and anxiety, with so many loud voices and so much violence?

NEXT WEEKEND'S PRESIDERS

(always subject to change)

Sat. 12/16	5:30PM	Fr. Ron
Sun. 12/17	8:00AM	Fr. Frank
	9:30AM	Fr. Frank
	11:00AM	Fr. Jakov
	12:30PM	Fr. Jakov
	3:00PM	Fr. Lynx
	6:30PM	Fr. Ron

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

Visit the Parish website
For Advent & Christmas Events
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