

Our Lady of Mount Carmel ~ Ridgewood, NJ ~ December 24, 2023

Merry Christmas!

AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH



JOHN 1:14

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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*A
Christmas
Message
from the Pastor*

Dear Friends,

Today is the 4th Sunday of Advent, but it is also Christmas Eve. This is the shortest Advent can be and a little challenging for priests as we go from the regular Sunday schedule, moving the Spanish Mass to 2:00PM so we can begin the Christmas Eve schedule two hours later at 4:00, continuing through the evening until the Midnight Mass (at midnight) and beginning again Christmas Day with a full schedule of Masses. As I said, a real challenge for priests.

Christmas is a time of renewed hope and quiet peace in our hearts because it still is a time to be reminded that God is with us—*Emmanuel*—as we continue to make our way through the most challenging times that most of us have ever experienced. The lingering effects of Covid 19 are still with us. Just today one of my godsons told me his not yet 2 month old son has the RSV infection and his 2-1/2 year old daughter has pneumonia. At the same time, two wars rage half way around the world, with daily images of death and destruction and human suffering and we are about to enter months of a national dialogue (called the election cycle) with out-of-control rhetoric, accusations, and a national debate that will be anything but civil, let alone charitable. Ugh? I reprint a reflection which I used three years ago, as we faced registration for the limited seating we were allowed at Mass. Remember where we were then? And even with all the troubles and challenges that we face, look at where we are now. As this reflection reminds us, everything possible has come and gone, both the good and the bad, both the accomplishments and the failures, both progress and regression and yet that **ONE SOLITARY LIFE** has changed the course of human history and that is what we will remember and celebrate on Christmas Day.

ONE SOLITARY LIFE

He was born in an obscure village,

The child of a peasant woman.

He grew up in still another village,
Where he worked in a carpentry shop
Until he was thirty.

Then for three years
He was an itinerant preacher.
He never wrote a book.
He never held an office.
He never had a family or owned a house.
He didn't go to college.
He never visited a big city.
He never traveled two hundred miles
From the place where he was born.
He did none of the things

One usually associates with greatness.

He had no credentials but himself.

He was only thirty-three

When the tide of public opinion turned against him.

His friends ran away.

He was turned over to his enemies.

And went through the mockery of a trial.

He was nailed to a cross

Between two thieves.

While he was dying,

His executioners gambled for his clothing,

The only property he had on earth.

When he was dead,

He was laid in a borrowed grave

Through the pity of a friend.

Twenty centuries have come and gone,

And today he is the central figure

Of the human race,

And the leader of mankind's progress.

All the armies that ever marched,

All the navies that ever sailed,

All the parliaments that ever sat,

All the kings that ever reigned,

Put together have not affected

The life of Man on Earth

As much as that

ONE SOLITARY LIFE.

Dr. James Allen Francis, 1926

With all the noise around us, picture that one solitary life and hear again the words of the angels to the shepherds in the fields—"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people... Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

And that, my friends, IS YOU!

Merry Christmas.

Fr. Ron



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STEWARDSHIP

In today's 1st Reading, we are offered a description of all the blessings God has, and will continue to pour out on His servant David. It is a reminder to us that we have all been blessed in so many ways by the God Who loves us and has gifted us with His Son. How do we show gratitude for these blessings? The Christian Steward responds with gifts of his/her own—gifts of **Time, Talent and Treasure**, so that the Kingdom may continue to grow. How do you show your gratitude for God's love?

Because the bulletin had to be in the hands of the publisher before last weekend, the figures for the support of the parish will appear in early January, as part of the monthly report for December. God bless all who respond generously to the work of the parish in announcing the "Good News." Electronic giving, **We Share**, helps the parish manage those gifts wisely. Why not make it a New Year's resolution to try it.



Ministry of Motherhood (MOMs)

Monthly Meeting—WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3RD
9:15AM—PARISH CENTER

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

Hey MOMs! Start off 2024 with the positive and prayer filled energy of a MOMs meeting! This month Sarah Shutrop, writer for the Hallow App, will tell her personal story and lead us in a discussion on sharing our spirituality with our children. Come solo or bring a friend. Enjoy the morning connecting with fellow mothers.

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

Grace Within: A Journal Experience
Tuesday Mornings Beginning January 9th
9:15AM-11:30AM—Parish Center Library

OLMC mothers—at all stages of motherhood—are invited to join Grace Within: A Journal Experience. Grace Within is a spiritual and personal journey over the course of six Tuesday (January 9—February 13) mornings using the Grace Within Personal Journal. If you are feeling called to find peace in the ordinary during these challenging days, this is your invitation to understand how you can grow spiritually; to seek and know your inner spark of divinity; and to become who God created you to be! Join this small and intimate group, make lasting connections with other moms, and prepare your heart for yourself, and your family life in 2024.

Scan this QR Code to register now!



PARISH OFFICES CLOSED
MONDAY & TUESDAY—DECEMBER 25 & 26

The Mass schedule for these two days can be found on Page 6 of this bulletin.
A priest is always available for emergencies.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Join us for a Special Night of
Praise, Worship, and Eucharistic Adoration!*

Friday, January 5, 2024 | 7:30PM-8:30PM | Church

Embrace the New Year with an evening of uplifting music and heartfelt prayer at OLMC! Our 6:30PM Contemporary Band, led by Erin, will lead us in songs of praise, creating an elevating atmosphere for worship. Fr. Frank will lead us in prayer and reflection.

This evening is sponsored by "Inspire," our Young Adult Group, and promises to be a source of inspiration and community. Light refreshments and Young Adult fellowship will follow the event in the lower level of the school (enter through the rear door).

Let's start off the New Year right. Let's come together for a spiritual experience like none other. Allow the Lord's comfort and encouragement touch your heart as we seek a deeper connection with him.

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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



OLMC THREE KINGS CELEBRATION

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024 | 6:30PM | MAIN CHURCH

ALL CHILDREN WELCOME WITH THEIR PARENTS
BRING A LETTER TO JESUS

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW IN THE PARISH CENTER

PREPARATIONS ARE BEING MADE! REGISTER NOW!

ANNUAL MEN'S CORNERSTONE 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

NEXT YOUTH MINISTRY MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE SATURDAY JANUARY 20TH—9AM-12NN^H

These Food Drives support: Fr. English Food Pantry, Social Services Association, Ridgecrest Senior Living and Healing Meals. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Frozen casseroles will be collected at this drive as well. Pans available the week before.

The Community Thrift Shop

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

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Shopping Hours (Cash Only)

Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 10AM-4PM

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**PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
(PEA)**

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Wishing all the “Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament” a happy, holy and blessed Christmas season. Praying for a holy and abundant life for each and everyone in the parish.

Let us pray for one another, for all our loved ones and for all those who can’t pray for themselves and have no one to pray for them—especially the sick and the dying and those who are alone in this sacred season. Let us all lift up their intentions to our loving, merciful and all powerful God.

Everyone is invited to participate in Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration. The chapel is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week—even during midnight hours and the upcoming holidays! Stop by at anytime to see Jesus. Better yet, sign up for an hour that is good for you.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

All are welcome to join us in the Parish Center for a Parish Communion Breakfast immediately following the 11AM Mass Sponsored by OLMC Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration.

SCHEDULED ADORERS URGENTLY NEEDED

Sundays: 9-10AM, Tuesdays: 2-3AM; Thursday: 3-4PM
Fridays: 4-5PM, 6-7PM; Saturdays: 12NN-1PM; 6-7PM

Contact Cynthia—551.574.1063, cynthiabtorres@yahoo.com

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023—NEW YEAR’S EVE
VIGIL—5:30PM**

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2024—NEW YEAR’S DAY
8:30AM 10:00AM 12:00NN
3:00PM (SPANISH MASS)



Dear Very Rev. Msgr. Ron,
Fr. Frank, Fr. Jakov,
and the Parishioners of OLMC,

Merry Christmas!

Fr. Felix & OneHopeChildren, Inc. wish to felicitate with you and your entire parish family during this great feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word coming to dwell among us. As you celebrate this Great Miracle of Christmas, I pray that, whatever is beautiful; whatever is meaningful; whatever brings you happiness may be yours this Christmas Season and throughout the coming year.

Thanks!
Fr. Felix Ugwuozor



THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon. Dec. 25	RECTORY CLOSED
Tue. Dec. 26	RECTORY CLOSED
	6:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym)
	7:30PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)
Wed. Dec. 27	6:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym)
	7:30PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)
Thur. Dec. 28	6:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym)
Fri. Dec.. 29	6:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym)
Sat. Dec. 30	8:30AM Men’s Basketball (Gym)
	9:00AM AoOL Girls Basketball (Gym)
	9:00AM CYO Basketball (Gym)
	6:00PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)



CHRISTLIFE 2024: DISCOVERING CHRIST

Six Tuesday Evenings—JANUARY 9—FEBRUARY 13
7:00pm-9:15pm (Dinner Included) | OLMC Parish Center

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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

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE ILL MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH

Joan Donegan Alsas, 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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Monday, Dec. 25 *The Nativity of the Lord, Christmas Day*

8:00AM For the People of the Parish

9:30AM For the People of the Parish

11:00AM For the People of the Parish

12:30PM For the People of the Parish

12:30PM For the People (Auditorium-Spanish)

Tuesday, Dec. 26 *Saint Stephen, The First Martyr*

No 6:30AM Mass Today

+ 8:30AM Catherine Maltezos

req The Lewis Family

+12:00NN Gerry Abi Nader

req Jean & John Boyle

Wednesday, Dec. 27 *Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist*

+ 6:30AM Christopher Picinic

req Anthony & NickiAnn Bussanich

+ 8:30AM Katherine McDonagh

req Her Family

+12:00NN John Morin

req Al & Mary Tarabocchia

Thursday, Dec. 28 *The Holy Innocents, Martyrs*

+ 6:30AM Nevio Mattessich

req Luciano & Dina Scrivanich

+ 8:30AM Barbara Taffe

req Ray Kelly

+12:00NN Annie Ivers

req Susan Varady & Family

Friday, Dec. 29 *Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr*

+ 6:30AM Elizabeth Hunt

req Chris & Karen Wright

+ 8:30AM T. J. Cosgrove

req His Family

+12:00NN Hortensia Garrido

req The McClure Family

Saturday, Dec. 30

+ 8:30AM John McGovern

req The Moore Family

+ 5:30PM The Echeverria Family

req The Guinchard Family

Sunday, Dec. 31 *The Holy Family*

of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00AM For the People of the Parish

+ 9:30AM Carol Ann Basso

req Grace & Pat Gallo

+11:00AM Eileen & John O'Connell

req Anne & George Skau

+12:30PM Emily Farnese

req Peggy Frazza

3:00PM Special Intention

of Giuseppina DiMartino

req The DiMartino Family

+ 5:30PM John Wells

req Peggy Frazza

The last Sunday Mass on December 31st is at 5:30PM and is the Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

NO CONFESSIONS MONDAY NIGHT—DEC. 25 & JAN. 1, 2024

TODAY'S READINGS

1. 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

With his power and position secure and living in regal splendor, as befits a king, David shares his plans to build a Temple, a dwelling place for God. But God will not be dictated to, even when it comes to a Temple to honor Him. He reminds David that he is but a servant, God is still the true King of Israel. It is presumptuous of David to build a house for God, who is Lord of everything. Instead, God promises to continue to bless this servant of His, David, by continuing his lineage indefinitely.

2. Romans 16:25-27

Paul is not claiming here to author a Gospel, per se. Rather, his good news for them (the Romans), is that he has helped to reveal the mystery hidden from eternity, the mystery of God's love in Jesus Christ, a mystery now open, not just to the Jews, but to the whole world. In thanksgiving, all glory is given to God through Jesus Christ. Everything begins with and ends with the Father, the God of creation and salvation.

3. Luke 1:26-38

In this familiar Gospel, Luke sets a scene that is totally ordinary, with the exception of the angel. An ordinary young girl, engaged to an ordinary carpenter, living in an insignificant village located in an outer province of the Roman Empire is about to be issued an extraordinary invitation—to be the Mother of God. She has found favor with God, a heart open to His word and His grace. She is an ordinary person on whose life God is about to make extraordinary claims, a God who is willing to enter human life as we have to live it, and transform it.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK

1. Do my plans for God come ahead of God's plans for me?
2. In what ways am I like David (planning for God) and in what ways am I like Mary (open to God's plans for me)?
3. Are you ready for God to take your feet into a new way this Christmas?

NEXT WEEKEND'S PRESIDERS

(always subject to change)

Sat.	12/30	5:30PM	Fr. Jakov
Sun.	12/31	8:00AM	Fr. Ron
		9:30AM	Fr. Frank
		11:00AM	Fr. Ron
		12:30PM	Fr. Frank
		3:00PM	Fr. Jakov
		5:30PM*	Fr. Ron

*The 5:30PM Mass next Sunday is the Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God which is not a holyday of obligation this year. There is no 6:30PM Mass on Sunday, December 31.

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



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