



THE HOLY FAMILY

“For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.”

- Lk 2:30-31

Our Lady of Mount Carmel ~ Ridgewood, NJ ~ December 31, 2023



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Dear Friends,

*I wrote this column for the Feast of the Holy Family, 2020 and, as you can read, it refers to a column I originally wrote in 2019. I present it again in 2023 for a very specific reason. Most people who advise me, or suggest to me, not to retire always cite, as the reason, that I will be bored, with nothing to do with myself. I want to assure you this would not be true. I have that small place in PA which always needs more attention than I have been able to give to it. In addition, I do love to read, most especially spy novels, from authors like Vince Flynn, James Patterson and Tom Clancy. On my recent cruise, I read two and a half books. So being bored is not a real reason to avoid retirement. But there are several real reasons. Serving the Lord is at the top of that list and feeling I still have the health and stamina to do that. Right after that is serving you, and being part of this family and **you are family**, for me and with me. And making a decision to leave one's family is always a hard one. I could continue to serve the Lord anywhere but no one will ever be family as you have been family these last decades. And that's the real reason behind my delay. This being Holy Family Sunday, I wanted you to know that. And the column that I wrote a few years ago says it all, and that's why I'm repeating it here again.*

I wrote this column for the bulletin last year, for Holy Family Sunday, December 29, 2019. Needless to say, neither I nor any single person in the whole world knew what kind of year 2020 would be. Today, after the experience of these last ten months, these words don't come near to expressing all that family life has meant. Literally, it has sustained us beyond anything we could have imagined. And I hope that is true of our family life as a parish. We have tried, over these last months, especially around those special celebrations which mark milestones in our religious journey, Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, Marriages and even Funerals, as well as our Christmas preparations and celebrations to keep that spirit alive. I hope and pray we have accomplished this, to some degree. Let's pray, as this 2020 year comes to an end, for the continued strength of our family life, personal, parish, community and nation, through this pandemic and beyond. Below is the column.

Today is Holy Family Sunday, the day on which the Church celebrates family life and asks us to reflect on the family as the basic unit of society. It is the family in which we are nurtured and nourished and which, throughout our lives, offers the support that allows us to continue to grow and, at the same time, to be secure in the knowledge that there is a place where we are loved. It is in the family that we experience the ties that bind, bringing us together into the most intimate of all human relationships. Given all that we know and believe about family life, and the critical role it plays in our development, one of the saddest things to see in life are families where members are at odds with one another, whatever the cause. Even in "traditional" families,

conflicts that disrupt those relationships can become so devastating to what should be “the ties that bind.” In addition, we all know that families continue under a great deal of stress right now, not only because so many households now have to have two “breadwinners,” but also because of the number of marriage relationships that have failed and the stress of “blended families,” and the new reality of families within the context of same-sex relationships and whatever changes may be on the horizon, such as polygamous relationships. Today’s Gospel is a reminder that the Holy Family, to which we look for inspiration, was very much a flesh and blood family, not immune to the realities of conflict that “flesh and blood” create. And so we can turn to them in prayer, especially in moments of conflict, to ask them to show us the way to more loving relationships.

I have looked through page after page on the Internet for prayers for the family but have not found anything I really liked. Most seem more suited for the inside of a greeting card. So I repeat, once again, as our reflection, this prayer, composed by the poet Robert Louis Stevenson, for all our families and for the **parish family** of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. It captures so many of the deepest wishes we hope for our families and it is my hope, prayer and wish for all of you.

Lord, behold our family here assembled. We thank you for this place in which we dwell; For the love that unites us; for the peace accorded us this day; for the hope with which we wait for tomorrow; for the health, the work, the food and the bright skies that make our lives delightful; for our friends in all parts of the earth.

Let peace abound in our small community. Purge out of every heart the lurking grudge. Give us grace and strength to forbear and persevere. Give us the grace to accept and forgive offenses. Forgetful ourselves, help us to bear cheerfully the forgetfulness of others.

Give us courage and gaiety and a quiet mind. Spare us to our friends, soften us to our enemies. Bless us in all our endeavors. Give us the strength to encounter that which is to come that we may be brave in peril, constant in tribulation, temperate in wrath and in all changes in fortune, and down to the gates of death, loyal and loving, one to another.

As the clay to the potter, as the windmill to the wind, as children to their father, we ask of You this help and mercy for Christ’s sake. Amen.

God bless all our families and this parish family of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and a very large and warm thank you for all of **you** who make this parish a **real family**.

Be well and be safe.

All peace and joy in the New Year,
Fr. Ron

THERE IS NO 6:30PM MASS TONIGHT

**There is a 5:30PM Vigil Mass
for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

NO CONFESSIONS MONDAY NIGHT—JANUARY 1, 2024

STEWARDSHIP

“Whatever you do, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus. Give thanks to God the Father through Him.” These words of Paul to the Colossians remind us that giving thanks to God the Father is an important work of every Christian. But it should be in deed, as well as in word. The Christian Steward seeks to put this into practice in his/her through gifts of **Time, Talent and Treasure**, as signs of that thankfulness. How do you give thanks?

The parish Stewardship of Treasure for the weekend of 12/17 was \$15,916. This bulletin needed to be to the printer early so the Stewardship of Treasure for 12/24 will be reported 1/7/24. God bless your generosity in this “thankfulness in action.” And thank you for your continued support of the parish.



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!

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)

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

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 to touch your heart as we seek a deeper connection with him.



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

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Academy of Our Lady's Annual Appeal.
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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



Registration Required! Reserve your place today!

CHRISTLIFE 2024: DISCOVERING CHRIST

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

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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!

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



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Please prayerfully consider joining fellow parishioners by supporting Our Lady of Mt Carmel through online giving. Go to the website or scan this QR code.

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

**Happy New Year
2024**



PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION (PEA)

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

Wishing all OLMC parishioners
a holy and abundant year 2024!

Jesus is God of love, mercy and divine providence. Come to him at any time. The Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration chapel is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week even through the night and yes - even during this Christmas season. Come to Him. Praise Him. Thank Him, Talk to Him. TRUST HIM. Pray for a holy and abundant year 2024.

Stop by the chapel at any time or better yet, sign up for an hour that is good for you - one hour once a week, every week. Let this be your New Year's resolution. This is an effective and fruitful spiritual exercise. Your holy hour will open up many doors for you, for your loved ones, for the parish and for the world. Be a part of this perpetual vigil. So enriching personally, emotionally, socially and spiritually. This silence with God in prayer is an exercise that will lead us and others to eternal life.

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

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**



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS SERVING IN THE MILITARY:
Aedan Cannon, Matthew Casale, Edgar Delgado, Durkin McCarthy, John Morano, James Nardelli, Robert Smith

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sun. Dec. 31	2:15PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 4:00PM Spanish Apostolate (PCA) 4:30PM Spanish>English Class (Library) 9:00PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)
Mon. Jan. 1	RECTORY CLOSED
Tue. Jan. 2	RECTORY CLOSED 3:45PM Jr. High 7A (PC) 5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:30PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)
Wed. Jan. 3	9:15AM MOMs Monthly Meeting (PC) 3:45PM Jr. High 7B (PC) 5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:00PM Spanish Choir Rehearsal (Church) 7:30PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW) 7:30PM Quiroz Confirmation Group (REC1)
Thur. Jan. 4	5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym)
Fri. Jan. 5	5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:00PM Inspire: Young Adult (NCW)
Sat. Jan. 6	8:30AM Men's Basketball (Gym) 9:00AM AoOL Girls Basketball (Gym) 9:00AM WCST Epiphany Retreat (PC) 11:00AM First Penance (Church) 12:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 2:00PM First Penance (Church) 6:00PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED MONDAY & TUESDAY—JANUARY 1ST & 2ND

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

First Saturday Devotion

**SATURDAY JANUARY 6TH
DAILY MASS CHAPEL FOLLOWING THE 8:30AM MASS**

Everyone is invited to First Saturday Devotion for the intention of consoling and making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Please come to pray the rosary with us and meditate on the mysteries as Our Lady requested at Fatima.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE ILL MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH

Joan Donegan Als, Gilbert Badillo, Frederick Bruno, Art Carpenter, Kimberly Parsons Daub, Marie Evans, Kay & Bill Forster, Joan D'Gerolamo, Agnes Duffy, Kenneth Gershbort, 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 HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



TODAY'S READINGS

The lectionary has several alternative selections from which the presider can choose

Monday, Jan. 1 *The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God*

- + **8:30AM Charles Lillis**
req Ed & Eileen Halsch
- + **10:00AM John F. Dunworth**
req His Family
- + **12:00NN Lucia Engel**
req The Engel Family
- + **3:00PM Carmen Olivares**
req The McClure & Garrido Families

Tuesday, Jan. 2 *Saint Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church*

- + **6:30AM Julian Meyers**
req The Meyers Family
- + **8:30AM Helen Trombetta**
req Kristen DeFilippe
- + **12:00NN John & Eileen Wells**
req The Wells Family

Wednesday, Jan. 3 *The Most Holy Name of Jesus*

- + **6:30AM Gerald Ciraulo**
req Brad & Cherylann Ferguson
& Michael Ciraulo
- + **8:30AM Yvonne Matesic**
req Domenick & Crissy Morin
- + **12:00NN Deceased Members
of the Hakim & Nativo Families**
req Their Families

Thursday, Jan. 4 *Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious*

- + **6:30AM Julia Francesco**
req Michael Francesco
- + **8:30AM Fr. Pat Donohue**
req The DiPiano Family
- + **12:00NN Nelson Bravo**
req Josephine & Louie Sansano

Friday, Jan. 5 *Saint John Neumann, Bishop*

- + **6:30AM Anna Scrivanich**
req The Fellner Family
- + **8:30AM Richard Maltezos**
req The Lewis Family
- + **12:00NN Tom Shea**
req Ann & Bill Leahy

Saturday, Jan. 6 *Saint André Bessette, Religious*

- + **8:30AM Margaret Finucane Boos**
req The Sackrider Family
- + **5:30PM Deceased Members
of the Santos & Sanabria Families**
req Terry Sanabria & Ron Reedy

Sunday, Jan. 7 *The Epiphany of the Lord*

- 8:00AM Special Intention
of the H. Setrakian Family**
req The Family
- 9:30AM For the People of the Parish**
- + **11:00AM Raymond John DeLeon**
req The Gallo Family
- + **12:30PM Giovanni Porco**
req Shawn & Vic Amoruso
- 3:00PM Special Intention of Esteban Diaz**
req Ariana Roman & Christopher Diaz
- + **6:30PM Jane W. Cavagnaro**
req Her son, Al Cavagnaro

1. Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

The early chapters of this book, from Wisdom literature, offer the reader countless insights of those people praised for their wisdom. This excerpted passage is part of a longer commentary on family life and on the commandment to honor one's parents. The human family is set within the framework of God's creation. Thus established by God, the benefits that flow from honoring parents extend beyond what this world can give; the failure to do so would breach not only family bonds but also the law, by which Israel was bound to God.

2. Colossians 3:12-21

Although beset by a variety of influences that threatened to weaken their ties in Jesus Christ, the community at Colossae is advised by Paul that unity is possible, and he offers his suggestions as to how this can be accomplished. First and foremost, they are to reflect the very character of God. That character is reflected in forgiveness, humility, peacemaking and forbearance. What ties all of these together is love, a love expressed in the same submission Jesus had to the Father, a submission that is not demeaning, but rather an altruism that places the other ahead of self.

3. Luke 2: 22-40

Whenever a Jewish couple became parents of a firstborn son, two rituals were required. First, they had to redeem him (as in the Exodus experience) and second, the mother had to be purified. Luke gives no detail of these rituals but includes them to show that Mary and Joseph were a typical pious Jewish couple, observant of the Law. At this same time, Luke also shows Who Jesus is and that His destiny will be as the Savior of Israel. This is accomplished in the encounter with the two aged prophets, Anna and Simeon. Through all of these encounters, Mary and Joseph are portrayed as being amazed. God accomplishes the extraordinary in the midst of the ordinary.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK

1. Has the intimacy of family life, experienced during the pandemic faded over the last two years? Is that a good thing or a bad thing?
2. In what ways can the Holy Family serve as a meaningful model for struggling families in the 21st Century?
3. How do you think Mary and Joseph understood the words about their child, that the "favor of God" was upon Him? Is the "favor of God" on your family?

NEXT WEEKEND'S PRESIDERS

(always subject to change)

Sat.	1/6	5:30PM	Fr. Frank
Sun.	1/7	8:00AM	Fr. Jakov
		9:30AM	Fr. Ron
		11:00AM	Fr. Jakov
		12:30PM	Fr. Ron
		3:00PM	Fr. Lynx
		6:30PM	Fr. Frank

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



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