

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Sunday, December 18, 2022
Fourth Sunday of Advent



PARISH STAFF

Father Abuchi F. Nwosu Pastor
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Deacon Al Kucinski
Deacon Edward Muller (retired)
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YOUTH MINISTER

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WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am

DAILY MASSES

Monday-Saturday 8:30 am (except Wednesday)
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Holy Days 8:30 am & 7:00 pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Monday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:15 - 4:45 pm

SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM, MARRIAGE & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact the office to arrange.

Masses for the Week

Saturday, December 17

GN 49:2, 8-10 / MT 1:1-17

8:30 am Health & Blessings for Ben Rotile

by Parish Staff

5:00 pm Glauco Tirone

by Bill & Charlene Nagy

Dean Paternostro

by Kate Cadmus

Sunday, December 18

IS 7:10-14 / ROM 1:1-7 / MT 1:18-24

7:30 am Ed Burns and Rich Sinski

by Parish Staff

9:00 am Health & Blessings for Pauline & Tommy

Schoonover

by Lisa Cangelosi

11:00 am Intentions of Roman Joseph Brengel

by JMLF

Richard E. Allen

by Elsie Allen

Monday, December 19

JGS 13:2-7, 24-25A / LK 1:5-25

8:30 am Barbara Froetscher

by Froetscher Family

Stephen Swiss

by Family

Tuesday, December 20

IS 7:10-14 / LK 1:26-38

8:30 am Health & Blessings for Phil & Linda

Sweeney

by Parish Staff

Wednesday, December 21

SG 2:8-14 / LK 1:39-45

7:00 pm Intentions and Blessings of Edmundo Veliz

by Rose Veliz

Steven Subrick, III *by Tom & Darlene Scarince*

Thursday, December 22

1 SM 1:24-28 / LK 1:46-56

8:30 am Intentions of Josephine Greshko

by Parish Staff

Friday, December 23

MAL 3:1-4, 23-24 / LK 1:57-66

8:30 am Miguel Angel Caicedo

by Adrian Martinez Gomez

Ruth Massett

by Charles Massett, Jr.

Saturday, December 24

2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16 LK 1:67-79

8:30 am For Safety of All Travelers

by Parish Staff

Christmas Eve

IS 62:1-5 / ACTS 13:16-17, 22-25 / MT 1:1-25

6:00 pm For OLMC Parishioners & their Families

11:00 pm For OLMC Parishioners & their Families

Sunday, December 25 – The Nativity of the Lord

IS 52:7-10 / HEB 1:1-6 / JN 1:1-18

7:30 am For OLMC Parishioners & their Families

9:00 am For OLMC Parishioners & their Families

11:00 am For OLMC Parishioners & their Families

Please Remember To Pray For The Following:



Colleen Apter, Ted Cassera, Matt Chapkosky, Stephanie Cuomo, John, Emma Finnegan, Denise Holloway, Jason, Patricia Johnson, Bruce Konar, Mike Maldonado, Ellen Mathesen,

Susanne Martone, Deacon Ed Muller, Yvette Murphy, Fr. Peter Oddo, Madelyn Patton, Linda Perotti, Don Poling, Rosemary Sciascia, Birute Rusinko, George Shammas, Stephanie, Charles Sullivan, Dannielle Tompson, Thomas Trogani, Constance Van Hoven, James Welden

*This Week the
Sanctuary Lamp Burns For
Health & Blessing for
Susanne Martone*



A GOOD STEWARD

Immaculate Conception -----	\$ 656.00
December 11 -----	\$ 2,544.00
Online Giving -----	\$ 640.00
Diocesan Assessment -----	\$ 155.00
Retired Religious Fund -----	\$ 1,536.00

Thank you for your generosity!

WOMEN AND MEN OF THE ARMED FORCES

We ask God the Father, through the intercession of St. Michael the Archangel, to protect all the men and women in our Armed Forces. May they be brought back safely to those whom they love.



Scripture Message December 18, 2022

On this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas:

“Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about” (Matthew 1:18). The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God’s plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means “Yahweh saves.” He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today’s first reading from Isaiah: “. . . The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us].”

Thank You

Giving Tree Gifts

THANK YOU to all who so generously purchased gifts for the tags on our Giving Tree and for the Gift Cards that were purchased for needy families. And Thank You also to the Confirmation students and their parents that helped to organize the food baskets and gifts to be distributed to the families in our community.

The Four Weeks of Advent

Week 4: Love



The four Sundays of Advent each have a specific theme or focus. The purpose of each theme is to spend time reflecting on the true meaning of the season - the life of Jesus Christ. The goal should be to come before God with a sincere heart and to worship Jesus Christ. To help the observation of these weeks, many churches led their congregation through Advent Readings. This tradition includes the reading of Scriptures that reflect the theme of each week. Whether in a traditional church or at home with your family, these Bible verses are a great way to reflect on the promise of the Messiah both yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

John 3:16-19, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil."

Saint Paul's Abbey 289 Route 206 - Newton

Saint Paul's Abbey has thousands of Christmas trees ready to choose 'n' cut 7 days a week November 26th to December 20th from 10am to 3:30pm. They also have the Abbey Gift Shop with many items that make ideal Christmas gifts, including books, statues, jewelry and more.



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



- ***Sacrament of Reconciliation** – Wednesday, December 21st at 7:30 pm after Mass.
- *Saturday – **Christmas Eve Mass** schedule is 6:00 PM and 11:00 PM Midnight Mass.
- *Sunday – **Christmas Day Mass** schedule is 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM
- *The Mass schedule for **New Year's Eve** Saturday, December 31st is 5:00 PM.
- *Sunday, **January 1st**, is the **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**. This is a **Holy Day of Obligation**. **Regular Sunday Mass schedule for New Year's Day.**

Christmas Flower Donations

If you would like to donate a Christmas flower to a loved one, the envelopes can be found in your envelope pack and we also have them at the doors of the Church.



Dear Parish Family,

This year my message to you is in the form of a simple prayer. Keep this letter and pray with your family at mealtime or bedtime. The extra time spent in prayer will bring amazing grace and peace to your hearts and your homes and strengthen us as a parish family.

Heavenly Father,

You have given us the model of life in the Holy Family of Nazareth. Help us, O Loving Father, to make our family another Nazareth where love, peace and joy reign.

May we love one another as God loves each one of us, more and more each day and forgive each other's faults as you forgive our sins.

Help us, O Loving Father, to take whatever you give and give whatever you take with a big smile.

*In Christ,
Fr. Abuchi*



The Individual Parts of the Mass

The Homily

The Homily is part of the Liturgy and is highly recommended, for it is necessary for the nurturing of the Christian life. It should be an explanation of some aspect of the readings from Sacred Scripture or of another text from the Ordinary or the Proper of the Mass of the day and should take into account both the mystery being celebrated and the particular needs of the listeners.

The Homily should ordinarily be given by the Priest Celebrant himself or be entrusted by him to a concelebrating Priest, or from time to time and, if appropriate, to the Deacon, but never to a lay person. In particular cases and for a just cause, the Homily may even be given by a Bishop or a Priest who is present at the celebration but cannot concelebrate.

On Sundays and Holydays of Obligation there is to be a Homily at every Mass that is celebrated with the people attending, and it may not be omitted without a grave reason. On other days it is recommended, especially on the weekdays of Advent, Lent, and Easter Time, as well as on other festive days and occasions when the people come to church in greater numbers.

It is appropriate for a brief period of silence to be observed after the Homily.

The Profession of Faith

The purpose of the Creed or Profession of Faith is that the whole gathered people may respond to the Word of God proclaimed in the readings taken from Sacred Scripture and explained in the Homily and that they may also honor and confess the great mysteries of the faith by pronouncing the rule of faith in a formula approved for liturgical use and before the celebration of these mysteries in the Eucharist begins.

The Creed is to be sung or said by the Priest together with the people on Sundays and Solemnities. It may be said also at particular celebrations of a more solemn character.

If it is sung, it is intoned by the Priest or, if appropriate, by a cantor or by the choir. It is then sung either by everybody together or by the people alternating with the choir.

If it is not sung, it is to be recited by everybody together or by two choirs responding one to the other.]

What is the role of the saints in the life of the Church?

Many popular devotional practices involve veneration of the saints. The saints have a special place in the Body of Christ, which includes both the living and the dead. Through Christ we on earth remain in communion both with the saints in heaven and with the dead who are still in Purgatory. We can pray for those in Purgatory and ask the saints to pray for us. Through their prayers of intercession, the saints in heaven play an integral role in the life of the Church on earth. "For after they have been received into their heavenly home and are present to the Lord, through Him and with Him and in Him they do not cease to intercede with the Father for us, showing forth the merits which they won on earth through the one Mediator between God and man." The saints, the members of the Church who have arrived at perfect union with Christ, join their wills to the will of God in praying for those in the Church who are still on their pilgrimage of faith.

Besides what the saints can do for us by their prayers, the very practice of venerating the saints does great good for those who are devoted to the saints. By practicing love of the saints we strengthen the unity of the entire Body of Christ in the Spirit. This in turn brings us all closer to Christ. "For just as Christian communion among wayfarers brings us closer to Christ, so our companionship with the saints joins us to Christ, from Whom as from its Fountain and Head issues every grace and the very life of the people of God." Love of the saints necessarily includes and leads to love of Christ and to love of the Holy Trinity. "For every genuine testimony of love shown by us to those in heaven, by its very nature tends toward and terminates in Christ who is the 'crown of all saints,' and through Him, in God Who is wonderful in his saints and is magnified in them."

Christmas Wafers

We have Christmas wafers available this year. It's a Polish tradition however, you don't have to be Polish to take a wafer. It's available in the hall and in the Sacristy. You are not required to but you may give a free will offering if you need a Christmas wafer.



Righteous man's plan altered by the intervention of an angel

We have already considered Mary, a righteous woman who consented without resistance or drama to be the vessel for God's entrance into the world. She trusted and accepted God's will. Mary's total obedience to become mother of God fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah in the first reading which says, "the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall name him Emmanuel." Not only that this prophecy is fulfilled, the gospel of Matthew shows us how everything went down. Joseph became part of this divine plan. In today's gospel he was introduced as a "righteous man."

"But where are we shown this *righteousness*? Could that be in regular worship attendance? We might, based on his righteousness, assume that he does indeed worship regularly, but this is not given as evidence of his righteousness. Where do we see it, then? In outward piety, regular prayer, scripture study, every other word of his being a word of praise? No ... we don't see this..." Where, then? His righteousness is demonstrated in his conduct toward Mary, his betrothed, his beloved — a woman who has, to all outward appearances, betrayed and disgraced him. Betrayed and disgraced him really? Supposedly, Joseph thought so.

"Yes, *betrayed* and *disgraced* him — that is perhaps lost upon us now, so embedded is this story in our culture, secular as well as religious, but the situation Joseph finds himself in is humiliating, embarrassing, the target even in our jaded times of jokes, side-eyed smirks, even violence. His woman is pregnant by someone else. He has been betrayed. He has been disgraced. He has every right to put her out in the street and expose her to public shame. But he doesn't. He resolves, out of a love and respect for his beloved that is manifest even in the face of the most bitter and contemptuous rejection, to keep the whole sad and disgraceful affair quiet." And then, he is visited, in a dream, by an angel of the Lord. The angel tells Joseph the incredible story that Mary's child is "from the Holy Spirit," and then he gives Joseph a detailed list of instructions. And Joseph, the righteous man, shows his righteousness once again by recognizing this angel of the Lord as an angel of the Lord and not a hallucination, or a demon or a dream that is nothing more than a dream. He recognizes the angel as a messenger from the God with whom he is obviously close, even in the midst of betrayal and disgrace. He takes heed and obeys.

Most importantly, Joseph also knew trust. And though he never uttered a word in the gospels, he spoke eloquently with his actions. St. Joseph listened and he responded to what he heard. He dared to believe the unbelievable and surrender his doubt to God, taking to heart the message of an angel. And as a result of this moment, a family was formed—a Holy Family. God's great plan could be fulfilled.

"Isn't it that way with all of us? God's work can only be accomplished, his will can only be fulfilled, when we give our assent. We are called, like Joseph, to cooperate with God—and to collaborate with him in his plan. We are called to fulfill a dream: God's dream for us. Doing that often demands the hardest thing many of us can muster: trust." May we be like Joseph: may we love, honor, respect even those who disgrace us. In any given situation, may we sleep over it, think over it, be patient to avoid rash decisions. "May we be like Mary, receiving at the most intimate level the Spirit, the entirety, of the living God without fuss or demands for explanation."

May we be open to the Spirit, as that holy couple was, recognize the Spirit, receive guidance, be ready to go places we may not choose to go, to take on a life we did not see coming. Pray that we learn from Joseph's example. Seize these days. Make them matter. Prepare. Go to confession. Find time for quiet reflection away from the noise and the distractions and the stress of the season. Listen, trust, be patient and be open to God's will.