

A detailed painting of the Nativity scene. The Virgin Mary, wearing a blue mantle, sits in the center holding the infant Jesus. Joseph is on the left, and the three wise men are on the right. The scene is illuminated by a star and a lantern. Angels are visible in the sky, and animals like a donkey and ox are present. The background is a dark, atmospheric setting with clouds and architectural elements.

O come let us
ADORE HIM

Parish of Saint John the Evangelist & Our Lady of Mount Carmel

(914) 949-0439 www.sjeolmc.org 914-948-5909

MERRY CHRISTMAS



My Dear Parishioners,

Suddenly the Holy Christmas 'is upon us'. Are we ready? Spiritually? I was a lot disappointed at the low turn out at the confessionals and the Advent retreat. In the coming week every day before Mass, confessions will be heard until Christmas day. Please come early to the daily Mass.

We have to gear up for the decorations and illuminations. I do request many volunteers to come forward with your time and talents. Thank you for all those who have helped up in our Christmas mailings and their activities so far. Let us come together and make this Christmas truly enjoyable.

Meanwhile you are invited to attend the Mass of my Installation as Pastor of St. John the Evangelist and Our Lady of Mount Carmel on January 23, 2016 at 5:30 pm – Details to follow.

Along with our dedicated staff, Fr. Ruben Cammayo, Fr. C. Joseph, and all the visiting priests, I wish you all and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the Christ child bless you abundantly with His choicest blessing all through the New Year.

Sincerely,
Father Thomas

Church Support

Thank you very much for your continued love & support for the parish. We are especially grateful to those who "make up" for their Sundays away from the parish.

Immaculate Conception 12-8-15

SJE \$ 1,606

OLMC \$ 1,577

Offering Collection 12-13-15

SJE \$ 7,580

OLMC \$ 4,134

Retired Religious Collection 12-13-15

SJE \$ 2,400

OLMC \$ 714

2nd Collection this weekend - for "Maintenance & Utilities" of our parish. *Please be generous.*

Rest in Peace - Please pray for the soul of Christina Molina who died this past week.

BINGO - is held Monday nights at 7:20 pm in the Church hall at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. All are welcome! Please note: There is no bingo on 12/28.

Support Our Advertisers - we encourage you to read over the back cover of our bulletin. The advertisers deserve our consideration should we be in need of their goods or services. Please thank them for their support.

E-Giving - We encourage you also to make your donations electronically. Those interested, may contact the parish office.

Mass Times - is a ministry to traveling Catholics. To find a Roman Catholic Church and its Mass schedule, visit www.masstimes.org.

Parish Open Gym at SJE - every Friday 6-8pm for 6th –8th grade boys & girls. The cost is \$5.00 per player per night. Parents are welcome to watch the fun. Open gym supervised by Jim Amodio. Call 949-3922 for more info.

Share Your Blessings - Please remember us with a bequest in your will. Saint John the Evangelist and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish is our legacy to our children, our friends and our loved ones. Your thoughtfulness will help insure our future.

Blessings and Peace For Your Generosity

Dear Parishioners & Friends,

On behalf of Father Thomas, along with the members of the OLMC Parish Life Committee and SJE Women's Club, we want to express our sincerest gratitude to all who so generously contributed to the success of our recent "Giving Tree Project". Our thoughtful parishioners opened their hearts to those in our midst who are less fortunate. Even with the economy being in turmoil, this did not interfere with your generosity. We were once again able to contribute to several agencies in the area. This project is a wonderful example of our Christian tradition of reaching out to those in need. Below are the names of all the agencies we were able to support with your beautifully chosen gifts:

- **Cardinal McCloskey Community Services**
- **Slater Center - White Plains**
- **The Coachman Shelter - White Plains**
- **White Plains Community Action Program**
- **Behavioral Health Center of Westchester Medical Center**

We delivered poinsettias to our own senior parishioners in nursing homes, hospitals and to those who seldom get to leave their homes. The deliveries were as gratifying to the seniors as they were to those delivering the plants.

Special thanks to all who volunteered with the OLMC Parish Life Committee and SJE Women's Club to help make this successful and to all our fellow parishioners who gave such love when it was so needed. We know God will continue to shower all of you with blessings.

Thank you & God Bless,

The Parish Life Committee of Mount Carmel Church and the Saint John's Women's Club

CELEBRACION DE LA SANTISIMA VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE: Queremos agradecer a todos los que participaron de alguna manera en nuestra celebración de la fiesta de nuestra Virgen de Guadalupe. Gracias por su ayuda en la preparación de la misa, decorando el auditorio, asistiendo a la serenata Guadalupana, trayendo y compartiendo deliciosas donaciones de comida, etc.



Christmas is a special time for us - a time to recognize the love and goodness of God; a time to know that Christ has come among us; a time to remember that God now shares the same joys and sorrows that we do; a time to rejoice

in the hope of eternal life that Jesus brings to each of us. May this Christmas season find you abounding in love, rejoicing in hope, and secure in God's peace. May God's richest blessings continue with you through the coming year.

We hope that you will celebrate the Feast of Christ's birth with us. Encourage your family and friends to join you, so that you all may have a Blessed Christmas.

2015 CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve - Thursday Dec. 24

4:30 pm OLMC - English (Children's Mass)

6:00 pm SJE - English

9:00 pm SJE - English (*Christmas Carols at 8:30 pm*)

12:00 Midnight OLMC - English

Christmas Day - Friday Dec. 25

8:00 am SJE - English

9:00 am OLMC - English

10:30 am OLMC - Italian

11:00 am SJE - English

12:30 pm SJE - Spanish

New Year's Eve - Thursday Dec. 31

5:30 pm OLMC - English

7:00 pm SJE - English

Solemnity of Mary (New Year's Day) - Fri. Jan. 1

9:00 am SJE - English

11:00 am OLMC - English

12:30 pm SJE - Spanish

!Feliz Navidad!

¡¡Ya casi es Navidad!! Wow, Otra vez el tiempo voló!! Me pasó como a muchos que vivimos el día a día trabajando duro en escuelas o actividades empresariales, cuando menos me esperaba ya estamos llegando a la celebración del nacimiento de Nuestro Señor, cosa no menor, por lo cual me siento apremiado a escribir un pequeño artículo al respecto.

En nuestro *adviento*, que como ya habrán leído en otros artículos, se habla de DOS acontecimientos que como cristianos debemos de tomar conciencia:

A) El nacimiento, la llegada de nuestro Señor, Jesús quien toma carne de María la Inmaculada, vino a este mundo a salvarnos, a abrirnos las puertas del cielo.

B) Su segunda venida. Claro, también debemos de recordar que Jesús vendrá de nuevo, y que debemos de estar preparados para ello, es un evento escatológico también, así que por mucho que tratemos de no pensar en la muerte terrenal es un hecho, para los cristianos es un paso hacia la Eternidad del gozo Eterno con Jesús.

Durante este tiempo de deseo y de espera del Señor, se nos invita a rezar y a profundizar en la Palabra de Dios, pero estamos llamados ante todo a convertirnos en reflejo de la luz de Cristo. Adviento nos recuerda que tenemos que estar listos para encontrar al Señor en todo momento de nuestra vida. Como un despertador despierta a su propietario, Adviento despierta a los cristianos que corren el riesgo de dormirse en la vida diaria.

Tomemos a María como ejemplo, en su embarazo, esperemos a Jesús con ansias, con amor, adorémosle en la celebración de su nacimiento, y pidamos que venga de nuevo. Ese debe de ser nuestro espíritu festivo en estos días.

El mundo nos hace olvidar lo que realmente celebramos, y nos hace pensar en las fiestas, en reuniones banales, en esas "merecidas" vacaciones, en no olvidarnos en la cena que haremos para nuestra familia, etc. Cuando lo más importante es:

Celebramos que nace Nuestro Salvador. Prepárate! El viene, ábrele la puerta. No seamos como esos que no le abrieron su hogar y nació en un pesebre, déjalo cenar contigo.

Apocalipsis 3, 20. Mira que estoy a la puerta y llamo; si alguno oye mi voz y me abre la puerta, entraré en su casa y cenaré con él y él conmigo



Year of Mercy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Members of the church are called to follow a path of humility that first recognizes one's sins and does not "strut its power and greatness," Pope Francis said at his early morning Mass.

In his homily Dec. 15 during the Mass in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae, the pope said that humility does not mean a person must be "listless and lethargic" nor have the habit of looking at the faults of others.

"No, this is not humility, this is theater," he said. "This is feigning humility. Humility has a first step: 'I am a sinner.' If you are not capable of saying to yourself that you are a sinner and that others are better than you, then you are not humble."

The pope reflected on the day's reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew in which Jesus rebukes the chief priests and elders of the people, warning that "tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the Kingdom of God before you."

In order for the church to not fall into the same manner of thinking as the chief priests, the pope said the church must follow three paths: humility, poverty and trust in God.

"The first step of a humble church is to feel like a sinner; the first step for all of us is the same," he said. "If one of us has the habit of looking at the other's defects and gossip about it, he is not humble, he thinks he is the judge of others."

The second path is poverty which, he said, means to be only attached to the riches of God and not of money. The pope recalled the life of St. Lawrence, one of the first seven deacons of Rome who was executed by Emperor Valerian after presenting him with the riches of the church: the poor.

"Poverty is this detachment in order to serve the needy, to serve others," he said.

Pope Francis explained that in the final step, the church is called to place its trust in God and not in power, friends and money.

"The legacy that God promised to leave us is of a humble and poor people who trust in the name of the Lord," he said. "Humble because they know they sin; poor because they are attached to the riches of God; trusting in the Lord because they know that only he has their best interests at heart."

MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 19 - DECEMBER 27

~ Saint John the Evangelist Church & Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church ~

Saturday, 12/19

12:10 pm SJE Elaudi Laurius
5:30 pm Vigil OLMC Joseph Ricciardella & Gina Mazzone
7:00 pm Vigil SJE For the People of the Parish

Sunday, 12/20 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 am SJE Almando Cyril
9:00 am OLMC Beniamino Capicotto
11:00 am SJE John Marchionni
12:30 pm SJE Rosa Antonia Silva (1st Anniversary)
5:00 pm OLMC Joanna Gonzalez & Maria Luisa
6:00 pm OLMC No Intentions

Monday, 12/21 - Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

7:30 am SJE For the intentions of the Sicuranzo Family
12:10 pm OLMC Melquiades & Resurrección Santos

Tuesday, 12/22

7:30 am SJE Chandy Mundakal
12:10 pm OLMC Michael Lennon

Wednesday, 12/23- Saint John the Kanty, Priest

7:30 am SJE For the Intentions of the Vinci Family
12:10 pm OLMC Salvatore Scavone

Thursday, 12/24

7:30 am SJE Arthur Heckey Sr. (13 Anniv.)
4:30 pm OLMC For the People of the Parish
6:00 pm SJE For the People of the Parish
9:00 pm SJE For the People of the Parish
12:00 midnight OLMC For the People of the Parish

Friday, 12/25 - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

8:00 am SJE For the People of the Parish
9:00 am OLMC For the People of the Parish
10:30 am OLMC For the People of the Parish
11:00 am SJE For the People of the Parish
12:30 pm SJE For the People of the Parish

Saturday, 12/26 - Saint Stephen, The First Martyr

12:10 pm SJE Mary Orejuela
5:30 pm Vigil OLMC Frank Lombardo & Giuseppe Valente
7:00 pm Vigil SJE Alicia Camargo

Sunday, 12/27 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:00 am SJE Corazon Drilon (Living)
9:00 am OLMC Immacolata & Raffale Pisani
11:00 am SJE Ermalinda Cercane
12:30 pm SJE Martin Gonzalez
5:00 pm OLMC Giuseppe Riccardella & Francesco Minafra
6:00 pm OLMC For the People of the Parish

Sanctuary Lamp OLMC: Orazio Giambona

Sanctuary Lamp SJE: Francis, Frank & Joseph Maio



MUSIC FOR SUNDAY

32 (M)

705 (H)

711 (H)

20 (M)

M = missal, H = Hymnal



St. Peter Canisius

Jesuit Priest - Doctor of the Church

"Hammer of Protestantism"

1521 - 1597

Memorial - 21 December



If you booked a Mass intention for your family member and would like to bring up the gifts, please inform an usher before Mass.