

Peace

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”

--Mark 1:2-3



Advent

Sunday, December 10, 2023 - 2nd Sunday of Advent



Masses For The Week

Monday, December 11 (Chapel)

9:00am - NO MASS

Tuesday, December 12 (Chapel)

9:00am - Richard Paul Jr. - Mike & Jane Duraney

Wednesday, December 13 - (Church)

6:30pm - Donald L. Wolf - Ken & Marti Shifferly

Thursday, December 14 - (Chapel)

9:00am - Dorothy Morley Kantosky - Bill Kantosky

Friday, December 15 (Chapel)

9:00am - David Blackburn - Tim & Darla Strah

Saturday, December 16

4:30pm - Timothy Grealis - Family

Sunday, December 17

8:30am - Normand Paradis - Mark & Terri Lenzer

11:00am - Dorothy Garrett - Kay Jacob

Parish Council

Kim Wilfong

(Chair)

Beth Adams

Andrew Carden

Michelle Denham

Sarah Hoover

Chris Martin

Rosemarie Pierson

(Vice-Chair)

Christian Roig

Margie Toombs

Jean Witt

Kathy Yourkiewicz

Vincent Zemanek

Finance Council

Brad Neumann

Joan Radzysinski

Jim Ries

Bryan Scheetz

Dennis Wilfong

Chris Yacobozzi

Building Committee

Lewis Behlke

Joanna Blaz

Jim Ries

Greg Rowe

Mike Ruebensaal

Mike Serdinak

Ken Shifferly

Darlene Stutz

Patrick Weir

Rick Wiedenmannott

Sandy Yovanovich

Pray for the Sick: Tina Abshire, Kristen Barney, Kathy Borowy, Lou Burrows, Deborah Cormier, Cathy Cornish, Jennifer DuPont, Ethel Faber, Karen Faulkner, Walter Fowler, Dennis Frabotta, Alyassa Frost, Don Gates, Marcie Grealis, Marilyn Hamm, Dorothy Hannes, Richard Heath, Joan Henschel-Blake, Gloria Janosko, James Kwiatek, Bob & Joyce Lark, Debbie Listwak, Ron Listwak, Toni Long, R. Lottman, Jose' Magiste, Neil Maier, Elise Martin, Hannah Haas Martin, Christopher Miller & Family, Michele Miller, Becca Mullins, George & Margaret Murray, Philip Myers, Rhonda Norman, John O'Connor, Ron O'Hearn, Maggie Oros, Mark Petricevic, Jane Peyton, Donald Plas, Adam Postelwait, Colleen Ray, Gladys Rising, Adam Rone, Mary Ross, Cristina Saffille, George Schaefer, Monica Schaefer, Paul Smith, Rhonna Smith, Thomas Southam, Al Traxler, Ted Turner, Rick Tylicki, Roger VON Seggern, Dick & Nancy Webber, Ezra Weller, Daniel White, Pat Wittine, Amy Woodburn, Pat Wracker & Bernadette Zielinski.

Please call the Parish Office on (440) 926-2364 or email us at info@olqpgrafton.org to have a name of a friend or relative included in this list.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

Monday

Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday

Zec 2:14-17; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Wednesday

Is 40:25-31; Ps 103: 1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday

Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

Friday

Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday

Third Sunday of Advent

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

just to let you know

WELCOME! If you are interested in joining OLQP, please call the parish office at 440.926.2364 or go to our website at www.olqpgrafton.org. Registration forms are on our website and by the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.

BULLETIN DEADLINES:

For inclusion in a weekly bulletin, please submit all announcements to Joanna at jblaz@olqpgrafton.org by the following dates:

Sunday December 17 by **12noon** Monday, December 11

Sunday December 24 by **5:00pm Thursday, Dec. 14**

FATHER JOHN'S CORNER:

"... what sort of persons ought you to be" 2Peter 3:11. When we hear the word to prepare this time of year, we may quickly think of all the tasks that we need to **do**. Our list might include decorating, baking, shopping, party invitations, or acts of service such as volunteering, donating to charity or visiting someone who is alone. All of these are good things, but the statement is what sort of people we ought to **be**. Are we peaceful, loving, gracious, kind, merciful and generous? Or are we irritable, angry, short-tempered, and frazzled? Maybe a combination? St. Peter in the 2nd reading at Mass this weekend (2Peter 3:8-14) speaks of the day of the Lord and how his delay in coming is his patience with us. But it says he will come and how will he find us? Take time to read this passage on your own. It ends by saying "...be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, **at peace**."

This week take some time before the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday to settle yourself and be at peace. Adoration will be from 2:30-6:30p. There is also an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 4:30-6pm on Wednesday. Mass will be at 6:30 followed by Blue Christmas which is a prayer service of hope for those who are grieving. What a great way to take time out from all the **doing** and **be** at peace. There will also be confessions on Thursday morning after the 9:00am Mass in the chapel.

Currently I am working with the architect and the General Contractor with the design development phase of the new building project. It is still very early in this phase but as plans develop, I will be updating you. Although a major part of the campaign is over, we are still working to secure additional pledges to reach our intended goal. As the year draws to a close and you are looking for additional tax write-offs, please consider the church's building campaign. And keep in mind that there is \$50,000 in matching money for anyone who makes a pledge at this time. Thank you to everyone who has made a sacrificial pledge as you have made a commitment to the future of the parish.

There is a flurry of activity going on this weekend with the children's Christmas party, the choir concert, filling out your Christmas Prayer Requests, returning gift cards and bags for Helping Hands and a bake sale. And I am sure I am missing something. Thank you to everyone who has made the different events possible and to all who have contributed in some way to making this a season of sharing.

Next weekend is Bambinelli Sunday. Bring your infant Jesus from your family nativity set to church next weekend for a blessing.

--Fr. John

CHANGE IN MASS SCHEDULE

Due to Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday there has been a change in the Sunday Mass schedule for one week only. This is to give time to prepare the church and to give the musicians and other liturgical ministers a breather before Christmas. And no, going to Christmas Eve Mass does not fulfill your Sunday obligation.

4th Sunday of Advent:

Saturday, December 23, 4:30pm Mass

Sunday, December 24, 10:00am Mass only (no 8:30 or 11:00am Mass)

Christmas Eve:

Sunday, December 24: 4:30pm Mass (children's program 4:00pm)

10:00pm Mass (choir program 9:30pm)

Christmas Day:

Monday, December 25: 8:30am Mass
11:00am Mass

COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

This Advent we are making a special effort to welcome home for Christmas those who have not been active in the church. Think about family members, friends, neighbors, etc. that you can invite to our Christmas liturgy celebration and extend a warm welcome to join you and our parish community at Mass.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

Our Lady Queen of Peace Church invites anyone seeking comfort and healing during this holiday season to join us in our Blue Christmas prayer service.

We gather remembering God is good, God is strong and God is near. If you are experiencing sadness or grief of any kind and you are finding the joyful, festive times difficult, know God is present and you are not alone. We are praying for you. **Come join us December 13th at 7:00 pm in the Church.**



Join Our Lady Queen of Peace

This Advent Season as we light the way for
Jesus in our acts of
prayer, service, and celebration.



Come Pray with us....

- ♦ Adoration will take place Every Wednesday in the Church from 2:30 PM to 6:30 PM.
- ♦ Confession: Every Saturday, 3:30 PM to 4:00 PM Wednesday, 12/13 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM
Thursday, 12/14 9:30AM to 10:30 AM
- ♦ Join our Scripture Study Group on Thursday, 12/14 at 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall
- ♦ Bring your prayer intentions with you to Mass to be added to our Prayer Intention Trees.

Pray at home....

- ♦ Enjoy a Scripture and Service Based Advent Calendar from Loyola Press for the youth of our parish and one from the USCCB for the adults of our parish. Both are available in the Gathering Area.
- ♦ Enjoy the practice of a daily Advent Reflection booklet: Encounter Great Joy, A Growing Season, or Learning to Love like Jesus available in the Gathering Area.
- ♦ Check out BustedHalo.com for a daily Advent themed quote and Advent challenge.
- ♦ Sign up for digital Advent Reflections through:
- ♦ Dynamic Catholic's "Best Advent Ever"
- ♦ FORMED Daily Reflections

Join us in acts of grateful Service

- ♦ Join Our Lady's Guild in gathering donations for Blessings House. Check the Bulletin or table in the Gathering Area for donations needed. Return all donations by 12/10.

Join us in celebrating

- ♦ By volunteering to carry up an Advent Candle to be placed in our Advent Wreath. Sign-up in the gathering area or call the office to reserve your spot.
- ♦ Bring your family's Nativity Jesus to be blessed for Bambinelli Sunday the weekend of 12/16 and 12/17 at all Masses.
- ♦ Come join us for Our Lady Queen of Peace's Christmas Concert on Sunday, 12/10 at 3:00 PM in the Church.
- ♦ Join us for a Children's Story of Christmas presentation before the 4:30 Christmas Eve Mass. See the Bulletin for more information to become a part of this beautiful tradition.



GOD'S WILL

O Lord, forgive what I have been, sanctify what I am,
and order what I shall be. --Unknown



HELPING HANDS - GIVING TREE

This year Helping Hands has changed the Giving Tree. The bags will go to parish shut in's and those in nursing homes, along with meal deliveries to those in the Grafton/ LaGrange area. We are also collecting \$25 gift cards to give out during the food pantry on December 16.

The **Giving Tree bags** and the **Gift Cards** need to be returned this Sunday **December 10**. Thank-you to all who contributed!

LADY'S GUILD

Our next meeting is our Christmas dinner on **Monday, December 11 at 6:30pm**. Please bring a side dish to share, meat will be provided. We will play our dice game after the meal, so don't forget your \$5.00 wrapped gifts! Also, please bring your donations for Blessing House if you have not done so already. We look forward to seeing you there!

LADY'S GUILD BAKE SALE



The Lady's Guild is having a Bake Sale after all masses **this weekend, December 9th and 10th**. There will be many delicious baked goods available.

All members are asked to bring their baked goods to the Gathering area of the church after 3:00pm on Saturday the 9th or on Sunday before each mass.

\$50,000 CHALLENGE

The need for space, increased parish activities and community outreach are some of the reasons we've shared regarding our capital campaign. Would you like another reason? How about 50,000 of them? A generous parishioner will match any new donation to the *Continuing Our Journey* campaign up to \$50,000. This is a great opportunity to double your donation without doubling the amount you are giving! Currently the campaign is at \$2,106,909 and growing. By joining those who have already given, we can reach our goal of \$2.5M through your generous support and prayers.

CALLING ALL KIDS!

We will be doing a performance of the "Story of Christmas" prior to the 4:30pm Christmas Eve mass. If your child would like to participate, please sign them up on the bulletin board in the back of the church.

The children will need to be at the Christmas Eve mass by 3:30pm in order to prepare for the performance. The performance will not include any speaking parts, just acting or singing (their preference).

We will have two practices before the performance. One on **Monday December 11 from 6:00-6:45pm**, and the second on **Sunday December 17 from 12:15-1:00pm**.

Please contact the parish office if you have any questions.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

THIS Sunday, December 10th at 3:00pm

Please join the Our Lady Queen of Peace Choir for their annual Christmas Concert.

The concert will be held in the church with a reception to follow in the Gathering Area. The choir will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Helping Hands Food Pantry.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to our parishioners for your continuous generosity during our Spotlight Weekend December 2/3. We will be able to purchase about 125 skeins of yarn to further reach out to those in need. Thus far, we have been able to provide about 111 lap blankets/prayer shawls to Mercy Cancer Center, Keystone Point, Medina Hospice and Birthright as well as to RCIA candidates, Baptisms and families/ friends within our parish community. A huge THANK YOU to our talented, dedicated ladies who have worked endlessly in donating their time and talents for the care and comfort of others. May God continue to bless all of you.

Congratulations to the raffle winners:

Baby basket: Regina Palmer

Child basket: Ava Smith

Quilt/Pillow: Nadine Heath



There will be NO meeting in January, 2024. Give your fingers a well-deserved break.

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH IN TRANSITION

O faithful God, as your people, we cherish our memories and our history as a sacred gift. We also ask you to guide us in our time of transition. We need your wisdom that we might be receptive to change, conversion and growth. We need your grace to redirect our hearts that we may be willing to offer ourselves in joyful service.

Do not allow fear, ignorance or pride to limit the work of your spirit, nor custom to prevent the creativity within us from bearing fruit. Open our hearts to the call of the Gospel. Give us courage and renewed hope that we may meet the challenge of being the Church in our time. Amen

TOGETHER 
LET US PRAY ...

Second Sunday of Advent Prepare The Way of the Lord

Saint Peter shows us a characteristic of God that we normally do not think about. He tells us that for God, "a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day" (2 Peter 3:8). Because early Christians sometimes complained that Jesus' second coming had been delayed, Peter is trying to tell us that what seems like a long time to us is nothing to God.

Like the early Christians, we may wonder how long it will take for God to answer our prayers. We may be praying for someone who is looking for a job, a sick relative, an end to abortion, or world peace. Some prayers require us to change, and we may not be ready.

What Peter means is that a thousand years is not too long for God if someone needs that long to repent. God is far more patient than we are. God has been "waiting" over two thousand years for us to preach the gospel to all nations. God has been waiting for millennia for people to give up war as a means for solving our problems. God has been waiting since the beginning of the human race for us to learn how to love our neighbor.

We might not be as patient as God, but we can help. Saint Peter says that we are not just waiting for the Lord's return, we are hastening it. When we make a choice that is based on faith rather than selfishness, we make it a little easier for people to believe in God. Jesus is the light of the world; he asks us to let our light shine, so that people can see Jesus in us. May our light "prepare the way of the Lord" (Mark 1:3).

--Tom Schmidt

SCRIPTURE STUDY



Thursday, December 14th is the sixth and final partnership lesson of "Philippians-Life in Christ" from the **FORMED LECTIO** series. Please meet with us at **7:00pm in the Parish Hall**. Session 6 will cover "All Things in Christ" on page 85 of the study guide. Study guides are free, and available at the Church Office or at the Study. You do not need a computer to attend the sessions and you can join us at any time. Please contact Rick Gallaher at (440) 458-6335 for comments or assistance.

Congratulations to **Tate & Nicole Smith** whose son **Weston Francis Smith** was baptized last weekend.

May he grow as a child of God with the support and witness of our parish community.



RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Women & men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education & care for those in need-usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care & medications. Please support them by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference for nearly 25,000 senior men & women religious.



FAITH FORMATION / UPDATES

As we continue to prepare our hearts and home this Second Week of Advent, consider who you might like to invite to Mass. This can be uncomfortable, but maybe it is a more subtle talking about what you saw, heard, felt during Mass with friends and family. There are postcard sized Christmas Invites available at the doors of the Church with our Christmas Mass information. All are welcome! Encourage others to come home for Christmas

Last week our Kindergarten through 4th graders enjoyed some time in the Chapel for a show and tell about Eucharistic Adoration, they got to see the Tabernacle, Monstrance, and spend some time in prayer with Jesus. They had some great questions and truly remind you, no one is too young and the youthful spirit and innocence of faith is refreshing! Ask them about it! Our 5th through 9th graders will go this weekend.

Saint highlights for this second week of Advent!

Be sure to grab a coloring sheet in the Gathering Area and take a minute to look up some information.

On 12/12, we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, who is the Patroness of all the Americas. She appeared to St. Juan Diego and provided him with proof for a skeptical Bishop. The image of St. Juan Diego's tilma is on display in Mexico City and is fascinating to learn more about the images within the images!

On 12/13, we honor St. Lucy who would wear a wreath of candles on her head to better see while she served the poor. Scandinavian tradition includes processions honoring her with girls wearing evergreen wreaths with lights.



THANK-YOU for your generous support of OLQP and your help with the needs of the community through your ongoing participation in our various ministries.

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Sunday, Dec 2/3	\$9,392.18		
E-Giving:	\$3,666.80		
Total:	\$13,058.98	\$12,551.00	\$507.98
YTD:	\$279,346.32	\$288,673.00	(\$9,326.68)



The Week Ahead

Sunday, December 10

Lady's Guild Bake Sale

9:35am-10:50am - PSR

12:00pm-2:00pm - Children's Christmas Party

3:00pm-4:00pm - Choir Christmas Concert

Monday, December 11

6:00pm - Children's Christmas Play rehearsal

6:30pm - Lady's Guild Mtg.

7:00pm - RCIA

7:00pm - Holy Name Mtg.

Tuesday, December 12

Wednesday, December 13

2:30pm-6:30pm - Adoration

4:30pm-6:00pm - Confessions

7:00pm - Blue Christmas Prayer Service

Thursday, December 14

9:30am-10:30am - Confessions

9:30am - Divine Mercy Chaplet

7:00pm - Scripture Study

Friday, December 15

Saturday, December 16

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

10:00am - Food Pantry

Sunday, December 17

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

9:35am-10:50am - PSR

12:15pm - Children's Christmas Play rehearsal

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Tuesday Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Wednesday Saint Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

Thursday Saint John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor

CALENDAR CLUB

Congratulations to our November winner **Laurie Haas!**

UPDATE: This fundraiser will be sponsored by the Holy Name Society in 2024. The HNS is eager to continue CC and has decided to increase the winnings to \$100 a month for Jan - Nov & 3 Dec winners of \$500!! Tickets are on sale now so please see the table in the back of the church or email OLQPCalendarClub@gmail.com with any questions.

Diocesan is proud to now be printing
Our Lady Queen of Peace's
Sunday Bulletin

You are invited to help support our Parish!
For opportunities to advertise,
please call 800-997-4986

<p>Michelle's CAFÉ Open Daily @ 6:30 A. 548A North Center St. Cheryll & Tim Miller - Parishioners LaGrange (440)355-6102</p> <p>Like us on </p>	<p>Beriswill INSURANCE AGENCY, INC. home • farm • auto • health life • business Grafton 440-926-3312</p>	<p>IN LOVING MEMORY OF Richard Gutknecht</p>	<p>Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will For further information, please call the parish office.</p>
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