Our Lady of Mercy Church

Park Ridge, New Jersey 07656

January 7, 2018
The Epiphany of the Lord

Rev. Msgr. Joseph R. Chapel, Pastor
Rev. Charles P. Granstrand, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Robert T. Ulak, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Patrick J. Seo, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Msgr. James C. Turro (Weekends)
Joseph S. Romano, Deacon
Gary Tankard, Deacon

MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday Evening: 5:30PM
Sunday: 7:30AM, 9:30AM, 11:00AM, 12:30PM (Spanish)
Daily: 6:30AM, 8:30AM
Saturday: 8:30AM

BAPTISM
The Sacrament is celebrated one Sunday every month. Parents should contact the rectory prior to the birth of their child for dates of Baptism Preparation Sessions.

MARRIAGE
Couples planning to be married should contact the rectory at least ONE YEAR PRIOR to the wedding date.

John Rokoszak, Pastoral Associate
Debra Wyka, Minister of Music
Amy Ballanco, Coordinator of Religious Education
Jennifer Kavanagh, Youth Minister
Donna Quinn, Finance Manager
Maureen Giaccio, Rectory Office Manager

RECONCILIATION
Saturday: 9-9:30AM & 1-1:30PM
Monday: 7-7:30PM

SCHOOL
Our Lady of Mercy Academy
2011 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence
25 Fremont Avenue, Park Ridge, NJ 07656
Laraine Meehan, Principal

CATECHETICAL MINISTRY
Grades K-6: 4-5PM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
Grades 7-8: 3:45-5:15PM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

Rectory	Websites	School	Catechetical Center	Music Minister	E-Mail
201-391-5315	UROLM.org	201-391-3838	201-391-3590	201-358-2994	olm.church@gmail.com
2 Fremont Ave.	OLMAcademy.org		201-802-1771		Urolm.religious.ed@gmail.com

OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady of Mercy Parish is a Catholic community that worships God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, celebrating Mass, proclaiming the Gospel Message and uniting in prayer. We strive to welcome all and to educate ourselves and others in the Good News of Jesus Christ. We support one another in times of joy and sadness and attempt to serve each other by reaching out to those in need in our community and beyond. We are imperfect people on a journey. Our goal is that the life of each person leads to the Lord.

MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6
5:30 People of the Parish

The Epiphany of the Lord
SUNDAY, JANUARY 7
7:30 Marie Pansini
9:30 Jeanne Bosca
11:00 Jeanne Bosca
12:30 Mary Frances Ferguson

The Baptism of the Lord
MONDAY, JANUARY 8
Is 55:1-11/ Mk 1:7-11
6:30 Mario Izzo
8:30 Orazio Iacono

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9
1 Sm 1:9-20/ Mk 1:21-28
6:30 Mario Izzo
8:30 Nikola Morin

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10
1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/ Mk 1:29-39
6:30 Maryann Rigolosi
8:30 James Lynch

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11
1 Sm 4:1-11/ Mk 1:40-45
6:30 Matteo Piccinich
8:30 Angela Weber

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12
1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/ Mk 2:1-12
6:30 June Miller
8:30 Margaret & David Wittman

St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
SATURDAY, JANUARY 13
1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1/ Mk 2:13-17
8:30 David Emerick
5:30 John Kashickey, Sr.

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
SUNDAY, JANUARY 14
1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/ 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/ Jn 1:35-42
7:30 Maria & Lillian Anhauser
9:30 June Miller
11:00 Angela Weber
12:30 People of the Parish

LET US PRAY
In your love and kindness please pray for the sick of our parish, especially: Lisa Martinsky, and Patricia Bilz.

Please also remember the deceased of our parish and their families, especially: Richard Powers, Miguel Shorey, Dr. Nicholas Gatto, and Lucille Barnes.

Please join with us in praying one OUR FATHER per day for all those who have no one to pray for them.

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS burn this week in memory of: Kathryn Padovano, Ann Hannon, and for Henrietta Urban.

If you would like more information about reserving a Sanctuary Lamp in memory of a loved one or for a Special Intention, please call the rectory office at 201-391-5315.

GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING – Tithing

December 31st Collection: $ 16,857
January 1st Collection: $ 7,141
Christmas Collection to date: $107,209

Tithing is God's plan to support His Church. Full tithing means 10% of gross income to God. We ask half of this, or 5%, for your Parish church. The other 5% goes to your favorite charities.

SHARING GOD'S BLESSINGS ANNUAL APPEAL - The goal for Our Lady of Mercy parish is $102,553. Pledged to date: $46,950. Thank you!

THE FAMILY OF GOD PRAYER GROUP meets every Tuesday at 7:30PM in the chapel to praise God and pray for special intentions.

DAUGHTERS OF MARY PRAYER GROUP meets Thursday mornings at 9:30AM in the Chapel.

THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA will be recited each Saturday in the Sacred Heart Chapel immediately following the 8:30AM Mass.

There are consecrated low gluten hosts available at all our Sunday Liturgies. They are made available during the reception of Communion near the ramp by the processional cross.

Pastor's Column

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we celebrate today the "Epiphany of the Lord," as the Magi travel great distances to see the Lord, we might give a thought to the "mobility" of our American life. We are a country in which people move far and move often for study, for work, even for better weather.

One of the effects of this mobility is the sad reality that many of our elderly are effectively alone, without family near at hand. It has saddened me on more than one occasion since arriving here last July to discover for the first time that one of our elderly parishioners had been sick only when the funeral director called to say the person had died!

Likewise, at various moments, including during these Christmas days, one or another family member who has been visiting has commented that no one from the parish has visited an elderly, homebound parent or relative. However, when I've asked if anyone had called the parish to let us know, the answer has been, "no."

My friends, as much as we are trying to do better to reach out and welcome young adults and young families, in fact, the only "demographic" that is actually growing in our country and in our parish is the elderly!

We hear the request on TV, "if you see something; say something." Well, let's keep a variation of that in mind here in the parish: If you haven't seen that person who usually sits next to you at Mass for a while, say something! Give a call and ask.

If you have a family member who is sick, and will be away from Church, whether for a short time or a long time, say something! Especially if there is serious illness, say something, so your loved one can benefit from the great grace of the "Anointing of the Sick" and from Communion visits. If your loved one is in danger of death, say something, so that the sacrament is possible while the sick person is still conscious. Don't forget, the Church's consistent teaching that this is an important spiritual duty of the faithful!

Sometimes I also hear a complaint that no priest visited a parent or loved one who was in the hospital. I want to make an important fact very clear here: Years ago, like any priest, I could walk into any hospital and request a list of all the Catholic patients from my parish, and then I could happily visit them.

However, in recent times, since the enactment of the Federal "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA"), one of the effects of its privacy provisions is that hospitals can no longer share such information with anyone – *including* your parish priests! Consequently, there is absolutely no

(continued in next column)

way for your priests or any other parish minister to know if someone is in the hospital unless the patient or a family member specifically informs us. Likewise please let us know about an illness so we can pray for the sick person at our Sunday Masses.

Finally, especially in the winter, some of our elderly are not ill but may not be very mobile. Some would love to come to Sunday Mass and other parish events but do not have transportation or someone to assist them. Here too, we can be much more attentive to our family, friends and neighbors who could use a hand, especially in the bad weather.

I am very interested in finding ways we can take better care of our elderly parishioners and I would welcome suggestions on mobilizing an orderly ministry oriented to social visits and events, as well as spiritual care for the sick, homebound, hospitalized and dying.

For all of you who already make regular visits to the sick and the homebound – especially our Eucharistic Ministers who bring Our Lord in the Sacrament – may the Lord continue to reward your generosity!

God bless you all!

Fr. Joe

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Light

Epiphany has come to us in a roundabout way. Like the magi, this feast came from the East. In the fourth century, a pilgrim to the Holy Land reported that the Nativity of Christ was celebrated in a vigil that began in the darkness of January 5 and lasted well into the sunrise of January 6. Though the Western Church celebrated Christmas on December 25, it eventually adopted this Eastern celebration called Epiphany (from the Greek word meaning "manifestation" or "appearance.") Both Christmas and Epiphany are celebrations of light: Christmas coincides with the winter solstice and the lengthening of daylight; Epiphany follows the light of the star and becomes the great "Festival of Lights" that celebrates the dawning of the Light who is Jesus Christ.

The light reveals something of God and something of ourselves. The light of Epiphany reveals a God who wishes to dwell among us. Like the Magi, God has journeyed from afar to come to us.

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"UN-TRIM THE CHURCH"

Please join us as we un-trim Our Lady of Mercy Church on Monday, January 8th at 7p.m.

THE OLM MASSBOOK for January, 2019 will open on Sunday, January 7th. If you would like to schedule a Mass intention, please stop by the Rectory Office during office hours.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—Join us during the 9:30 Mass as we gather the children in the chapel after the Opening Prayer. They will listen to the same liturgy as the regular Mass, but in a way they can understand with stories, coloring, and songs. The children will then return to the church during Offertory. Best for ages 3 to 8 years old, but older siblings are welcome to help out.

CALLING ALL KNITTERS and CROCHETERS! We are working on a project to provide hats and scarves for the homeless this winter. Patterns and yarn are available upon request. Please contact Lauretta Miller at 201-391-6109 or by email at: lajim@optonline.net if you would like to be part of this effort. Thank you!

LETTER OF THANKS

Thank you for your generous gift of $1,075 on November 27th to the Estoy con Puerto Rico Fund of The Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of NY. Donations for Estoy con Puerto Rico will assist our friends in Puerto Rico as they recover and rebuild from the havoc caused by Hurricane Maria. The resources provided by your gracious gift, and that of so many other concerned citizens throughout the country, will assist with immediate relief needs and continue for the long term recovery of those who are so severely impacted by this horrific storm. —Msgr. Kevin Sullivan

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS—Protecting God's Children—If you need to take the "Protecting God's Children Workshop" please visit the website VIRTUS.ORG for upcoming workshop dates. Additional details are in our information stands in the Gathering Space. The Archdiocese takes very seriously any and all allegations of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy, Religious and lay staff of the Archdiocese. We encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct to inform us immediately so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse. Individuals who wish to report an allegation of sexual misconduct may do so by calling the Archdiocese Office of Child and Youth Protection at 201-407-3256.

LOST AND FOUND—A bin is located in the church vestibule near the kitchenette area that contains items left in church over the months. If you lost jewelry, please stop by the Rectory Office.

OurLadyofMercyChurch07656 is on Facebook. Like us to get information about upcoming events, parish news, parish programs and inspirational messages.

YOGA - Tuesdays at 10AM, OLM Lower Gathering Space—$10 donation with half being given to Haiti Scholarship Fund. Bring yoga mat, blanket, small towel, and wear comfortable clothes. **Next class: January 9, 16, 23, 30.**

HACKENSACK SOUP KITCHEN Walk in Dinner Program—Volunteers are needed to help serve dinner at the soup Kitchen in Hackensack on Thursday, January 11th. Bulletin boards will be set up at the main entrance of the Church and in the Gathering Space indicating the food and supplies needed. These items should be brought to the Parish Center on Thursday, January 11th by 2pm. Please call Dolly(201-247-8102) or Elaine(201-391-5051) no later than Tuesday, January 9th, if you wish to volunteer.

OUR LADY OF MERCY BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Wednesday, January 10th
7:30pm – 8:30pm
"Our Journey Through Grief"

Often after the loss of a loved one, there are feelings, and issues left unresolved. If you have experienced the loss of a loved one, please join us for the evening. **Our Bereavement Group will meet in the Parish Center (former Convent).** For more information call John Rokoszak at 201-391-3590.

IS RCIA FOR YOU? There are many reasons why you may want to become involved in the RCIA. Do any of these fit you?

- I have never been baptized.
- I am married to a Catholic and attend Mass, but just don't know what the next step may be.
- I have been baptized in another Christian denomination and wish to become Catholic.
- I have been baptized Catholic, but have not received any other sacraments.

Do you know someone who might be interested in being in full communion with the Catholic Church? Ask, encourage and invite them to this program. The journey begins with one small step!

Upcoming sessions: January 7, 21 at 10:30AM in the Parish Center. Call John Rokoszak at 201-391-3590 or email Jlrok@optonline.net for more information.

MARCH FOR LIFE. The annual March For Life is being observed on Friday, January 19th on the anniversary of the Supreme Court ruling in 1973 legalizing abortion on demand. Hundreds of thousands from around the country attend the March each year including students from high schools and universities; pro-life activists and leaders of pro-life organizations; many Congressmen; and bishops, priests, and nuns. The US bishops and the Knights of Columbus support the March. The March begins with a rally at 12 noon on the National Mall followed by a march to the Supreme Court at 1:00 PM. The March can also be viewed live on EWTN beginning at 9:00 AM. Bus transportation from nearby parishes is available for a modest fee. If you are interested in attending the March call Art Lavis at 201 391-6431 for information about available buses.

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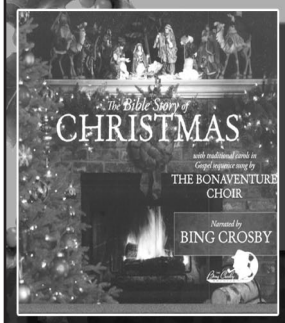

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