



Peace on Earth

**Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church
Portland Oregon**

Rev. Crispine Otieno, Pastor
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Dear fellow parishioners,

Greetings! With December 25th still weeks away, I am heartily looking forward to celebrating this 2025 Christmas with you. This is my 7th Christmas with you and I love our parish community. This year has been generally good. Challenges don't lack but God has been good to us. For those who had tough times this year, thank you for remaining strong in faith and hope. In everything, God is with us. This last summer, I was able to visit my family in Kenya and I am grateful to God for the gift of the family! I thank God for you too my parish family and I thank you for the ongoing love and support as we share our faith and grow together in holiness. Our parish family is strong and blessed with so many gifts. Each one of you is a valuable gift to this parish and I love you all.

I know this is a season to share joy, love and gifts but kindly don't forget the reason for the season: the greatest gift has been given to us by God. Isaiah tells us, "*For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given...he shall be called wonderful counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of peace (9:6).*" Another scripture we read on Christmas day tells us, a people who walked in darkness have seen a great light! (Is.9:1) The new born child Jesus gives us hope in facing our challenges. Some of us have had some economic challenges, struggle with sins and addictions, death or sickness in the family and all of us can benefit from healing and peace. Peace in our world, in our society and in our families and peace in our hearts. Jesus did not shy away from coming in our midst to meet us where we are. From time immemorial, God never abandons his people, he remembers us! By taking on our humanity from Blessed Virgin Mary, Jesus draws us into His Divinity: what a precious exchange! God has come down to walk with us, to accompany us and lead us ultimately to eternal life. Let us therefore open our hearts to embrace him, open our homes to welcome him, for whoever welcomes Jesus, welcomes peace, joy, love and hope (cf. Lk 2:7).

I encourage all of you to celebrate Christmas joyfully and to recommit yourselves to the sacraments of the Church especially Sunday Eucharist and regular confessions. Jesus is always here calling us to walk with him and him with us, let us allow him to nourish and strengthen us by drawing closer to him. Please invite your loved ones to come to this greatest feast of all and receive Christmas blessings as a family. Our Christmas masses this year are 4.30pm and 7pm on the 24th; on the 25th mass is at 10am. The full schedule of masses and confession times will be posted online.

As you celebrate this gift of love with your family, I request you to also celebrate with our parish family which is your second family, our spiritual family where we are related not by blood but by baptism in Jesus. Kindly consider ways you could gift the parish so that this church of Jesus Christ can continue with its mission of proclaiming life

changing good news with all. Each year, together with the pastoral and finance councils, we propose a Christmas Wishlist. Over the years, through the Christmas Wishlist donations, we have done a lot for our church and made it a beautiful safe place of worship and fraternity. I am very grateful to you for your dedication, love and commitment to Our Lady of Sorrows. Because of you, this church continues to bring Christ to others and others to Christ as we journey to our heavenly home. This is a special place! Our home! If you joined our parish but never receive communications from us, chances are that we don't have you registered, or we need your updated information. Please let us know. I wish to reach out to you.

We think of you fondly as part of our parish family and pray that you have a faith-enriching Advent Season, and a spiritually filled Christmas Season. On behalf of the Staff, Pastoral Council and Finance Council, and all parishioners of OLS, I wish you all a very joyful Christmas and a happy New year 2026. May the peace of Christ be with you and your loved ones.

In Christ,

Fr. Chrispine Otieno, Pastor

2025 OLS Christmas Wish list

Beloved parishioners. Merry Christmas! Every year we share a Christmas Wish list for our parish. These are gifts, necessities, or projects that the parish wishes to accomplish if it is able to get donations from well-wishers. Last year, with your generous gifts, we were able to install new security door for the Gym; we bought two new computers (a laptop and bookkeeper's desktop), we purchased new chalices and vestments for the church, made some renovations in the Blue house and installed Hvac system for heat and ac, we replaced the old fence beside the church along 52nd street and we have raised 50,000 toward our parking lot project. With our budget alone, we cannot do all this. If you wish your donation to be spent on a specific item, please indicate in the memo (check) or else we will spend it in areas of greatest need, school subsidies, maintenance or savings. We honor your intention and thank you for your love and generosity to your/our parish. Here are some of our needs and wishes:

New Security door for Carberry Hall \$14,000

Replacement of the Parish parking lot approx. \$70,000

Painting the interior of the Church (estimate to be given)

Replace school roof(1) along Woodstock Blvd (*we have 3 roofs to replace-school and office). (estimate to be given)

Build our emergency savings for parish upkeep

Install a fence behind the office on 54th street(currently unfenced). \$15,000

*Please expect tax letters from the church in January and if you have any questions, please call or email Carl in the office. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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12/10/2025