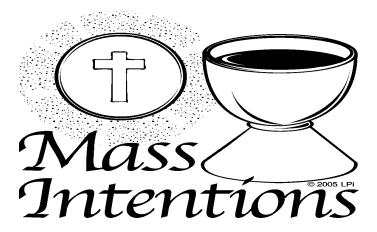


Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." - Lk 1:30-31



Saturday, 12-19	9:00 a.m.	Special intention	
	4:30 p.m.	John Kelleher	
Sunday, 12-20	7:30 a.m.	For the people of the parish	
·	9:00 a.m.	Israel Gardner	
	10:45 a.m.	Patricia Sinibaldi,	
		10th anniversary	
Monday, 12-21	9:00 a.m.	Patricia Wardell	
Tuesday, 12-22	9:00 a.m.	Special intention	
Wednesday, 12-23 9:00 a.m.		Special intention	
Thursday, 12-24	4:00 p.m.	(Mass in the Church)	
		Louis Rossilli	
	4:30 p.m.	(Mass in the Parish Center)	
	6:00 p.m.	(Mass in the Church)	
		Gil Chaves	
	Midnight	(Mass in the Church)	
		For the people of the parish	
Friday, 12-25	8:30 a.m.	Erik Pitassi	
	10:30 a.m.	Joseph and Angelina Barone	
Saturday, 12-26	9:00 a.m.	Special intention	
	4:30 p.m.	Special intention	
Sunday, 12-27	7:30 a.m.	For the people of the parish	
	9:00 a.m.	William DaPonte,	
		16th anniversary	
	10:45 a.m.	Scroggs and Schroeder families	

All Masses are livestreamed.

Watch on the parish website, olmcseekonk.org, or Facebook page, @OLMCSeekonkMA

#### Mass intentions for 2021 now being accepted

The parish office is taking Mass intentions for Masses between Jan. 1- June 30. There is a limit on the number so everyone will have an opportunity to request Masses. Come by the office during office hours or call the parish secretary, 508-336-5549. The offering for each Mass is \$10. A Mass for a person who is living will be listed as a "Special Intention" but any Masses for deceased loved ones or a general intention (such **as** "For Vocations") will be listed as such. Please make sure you spell out the names of those you wish the Mass to be offered for so it will be accurately recorded.



# DONATE

Your donations are more important than ever. Please visit our website, www.olmcseekonk.org, and select "Online Giving."

\$8,449

#### Report for December 13, 2020

Weekly offering:

#### Use our online giving system

Our online donation and payment system works directly through our eCatholic website and provides a safe, simple, and convenient way for parishioners to tithe or contribute gifts for a specific need. This helps eliminate the need to locate checkbooks, remember weekly envelopes, or mail in funds. Especially during this difficult time when many are not in church weekly, parishioners can give directly on the parish website or set up a recurring account to give automatically. As you know, everything we do as a parish, from the upkeep of the church and Parish Center to the ministries we offer, comes from the generosity of parishioners. So, thank you! To use the system, visit www.olmcseekonk.org and select "Online Giving."

*If you can help financially* but do not wish to give online, you may drop your donation in the black mailbox outside the parish office, or mail it to: Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 984 Taunton Ave., PO Box 519, Seekonk, MA 02771. Donations also are collected during Masses on Saturday and Sunday. Every little bit helps, so thank you.

#### Parish office hours

The Parish Office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you need to drop off anything or to pick up paperwork outside regular hours, items can be placed in the drop box installed outside the parish office, or mailed to you. The phone number is 508-336-5549.

**Sign up for Formed**: Take advantage of the resources on Formed.org by visiting olmcseekonk.formed.org and registering. You may also download the Formed app to any device.

**Bulletin access:** Sign up to receive the bulletin by email at parishesonline.com. Read the bulletin online on Our Lady of Mount Carmel's website, www.olmcseekonk.org. Email notices to vickianndowning@yahoo.com.

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# Pastor's Page

Last Days of Advent: As we begin this last week of Advent our focus now is on the immediate preparations for the Birth of the Lord. We think about the joy of the birth of our Savior in the midst of Mary and Joseph needing to place all their trust in God's providence (for example: trusting that during their travel to Bethlehem they would make it safely for the birth of Jesus, trusting in God in the face of rejection of no room in the inns that something would be possible, trusting their needs would be met in the face of poverty yet them doing their part). As we still face different challenges with the pandemic and its many different effects in our lives, we look to Joseph and Mary for their example and intercession in how to respond with trust in God when there are things beyond our control. We can learn from them to see the blessings even when things do not look promising in the challenges before us. Most importantly, we can learn from them the joy of being aware of the need for the Savior and what he has done for us. The Incarnation of Jesus Christ gives meaning to everything. For us, in particular, he is the one who reveals to us God in the fullest way possible. The Incarnation helps us to know ourselves as we are baptized in Christ and made children of God. If we continue to turn to the Lord for the graces we need, there is no challenge that can wipe out the joy in Christ God offers to us (just as the difficulties Joseph and Mary faced did not wipe out the joy of the birth of Christ, but further called them into an even deeper faith).

Triduum for Christmas: This Monday to Wednesday, Dec. 21-23, at 7 p.m. in the church, as an additional way to help people spiritually prepare for Christmas, we will be offering a chance to pray about some aspects of the Birth of Our Lord. With all the Christmas preparations, hopefully you will find the opportunity to spend time in prayer and reflecting on the mystery of the Incarnation. The holy hours will consist of

Adoration, a preached meditation, praying the Rosary, chance for Confessions, and Benediction. It will be livestreamed as well.

Christmas Mass Schedule: This year with the pandemic it is hard to predict how many people will come out for the Christmas Masses. Like the Sunday Masses, the bishop continues to grant the dispensation of attending Mass.

Because of the unpredictability of how many will come to the Masses, and knowing the 4 p.m. Vigil traditionally has been the largest attended Mass, we will have the overflow downstairs, the chance for people to listen to the Mass in their vehicles, but most importantly an additional Mass in the Parish Center at 4:30 p.m. (So, please know there is the possibility that if you come to the 4 p.m. Vigil Mass you might be directed to the Parish Center if the church is full due to the limits due to the pandemic.)

The other Masses for Christmas are 6 p.m. Mass in the church; Midnight Mass on Christmas in the church; and on Christmas Day, 8:30 a.m. Mass in the church and 10:30 a.m. Mass in the church.

Many Thanks: Many thanks to all of you who donated towards the requests posted on the Giving Tree. Because of the pandemic, the different groups assisting people requested more gift cards or other services rather than specific presents. The generous response by so many of you is very moving and humbling. Thank you everyone!

Please Keep in Your Prayers: Please keep in your prayers Francis Lima, who passed away recently. Francis's funeral was on Friday, Dec. 18. Please keep Francis and his family in your prayers during this difficult time.

**Novena Talks:** All of the holy hours from the Novena are posted on the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Facebook



**Father Kevin Cook** 

site. The talks are usually about seven or eight minutes into the holy hour and most of them varied in length from 20-30 minutes. Each talk looked at some of the spiritual challenges we have had to face in the last year with the pandemic and other challenges. The talks ran from Nov. 30 through Dec. 7 (Dec. 8 was the Mass that ended the novena). The topics were: gratitude (Fr. Matt Gill), embracing the cross (Fr. Chris Murphy), charity (Fr. Ryan Healy), hope (Fr. Chris Peschel), patience (Fr. Steve Booth), grace (Fr. Kevin), trust in the Lord and anxiety (Deacon Matt), and the Last Thing (Fr. Kevin). If you did not get a chance to listen to them, I would highly recommend it. Let us continue to turn to Our Lady for her intercession as we continue through Advent and prepare for Christmas.

#### **Congratulations to Hannah Caouette:**

Hannah Caouette is this year's recipient of the Pope Pius X Youth Award for our parish. Hannah has served Mass every Sunday for many years (mostly at the 7:30 a.m. Mass and since the pandemic at the Vigil Mass on Saturdays), as well as helped teach children in faith formation. The ceremony was celebrated by the bishop with the recipients on Tuesday, Dec. 1, via Zoom. On Saturday, Dec. 12, I presented Hannah with the award at the Vigil Mass. Thanks to Hannah for her great dedication and joyful example. Please keep her in your prayers that she will always grow in the love of the Lord and strive to joyfully give witness to Christ wherever she is. Congrats Hannah!

#### **OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH**



## Adoration

## St. Joseph Adoration Chapel

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish offers perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in the St. Joseph Adoration Chapel.

To conform with social distancing, the chapel is limited to nine people. Make sure you use the hand sanitizer at the entrance. When you leave, please disinfect any part of the chair and kneeler you may have touched.

We are in need of adorers. To become a regular adorer or a substitute, please contact Linda Nason, adoration coordinator, 508-463-6723.

#### The Eucharist is the highway to heaven.

#### Adorers are needed:

- Saturday: 4 p.m, 6 p.m., 8 p.m., 9 p.m,
- Sunday: 1 p.m., 3 p.m, 5 p.m.
- Monday: 2 a.m., 9 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 9 p.m., 10 p.m.
- Tuesday, 5 a.m., 10 a.m., Noon
- Wednesday: 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 6 p.m.
- Thursday: 2 p.m, 5 p.m., 8 p.m.
- Friday: 3 a.m., 10 p.m.

#### Substitutes are needed:

- Saturday: 8 a.m.
- Sunday: 11 p.m.
- Monday, 11 a.m., 2 p.m.
- Tuesday: 2 p.m., 7 p.m.
- Thursday: 2 p.m., 8 p.m.
- Friday: 10 p.m.

#### Contact information for adorers:

Midnight-5 a.m.	Donna Castle	401-524-5219
6 a.m11 a.m.	The Andrades	508-252-5254
6 a.m11 a.m.	Loretta MacDonald	508-252-4475
Noon-5 p.m.	Linda Nason	508-463-6723
6 p.m11 p.m.	Maureen Sanders	508-243-4104

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is prayed in the adoration chapel Monday through Saturday at 3 p.m.

A rosary for priests and all vocations is prayed in the adoration chapel every Thursday at 2:30 p.m.

A novena to St. Anne for the protection of children is prayed every Friday at noon in the adoration chapel.

## Society of St. Vincent de Paul



The angel said to them (shepherds), "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

For today in the city of David a savior has been born to you who is Messiah and Lord." Luke 2:10, 11

Do you know someone who needs help? Please call the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul at 401-603-8888 so that, together, we can help the suffering and the poor.

On behalf of all the members of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, we wish you a blessed and merry Christmas.

The next meeting will be a virtual meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. If you are interested in becoming a member, please call the number above.

#### If you're in need, please reach out

Are you in need with help with food, clothing, shelter, or other needs? Throughout the year there are many needs that spring up, but especially in this difficult time there may be many of you who are struggling to make ends meet. Please do not hesitate to contact our parish St. Vincent DePaul Society to see what type of assistance they can provide. Explain your current financial need and they will see what they can do to help you, whether it is with that direct need, or possibly by providing aid with some other need in daily life that frees you to address the need you are currently facing.

#### **Building a Culture of Vocations in December**

Every month we pray for different vocations to support those who are responding to the Lord's call. In the month of December, let us pray for Fr. Jason Brilhante, administrator of St. John of God Parish in Somerset; Deacon Del Malloy at St. John the Evangelist Church in Attleboro; Deacon Peter Scheffer; and our parishioners Anne and Ken Mason for the gift of the bond of marriage.

#### Parishioners: Update your contact information

Have you moved? Eliminated your landline? Changed any contact information? If you are a registered parishioner and need to update your personal information with the parish, for example: change of address, phone number, or email, please use the form on the parish website,

www.olmcseekonk.org/update-your-info. Thank you for helping us keep our records current!

Also, to sign up for Flocknote, a new method of parish communication, text OLMCSeekonk to 84576. You can choose whether to receive text or email notifications.

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



#### Faith Formation has begun

We have started up the new program for Faith Formation. This year parents are using the program Project Nazareth, which entails conversations about the faith, as well as praying with their children throughout the week. The goal is just to help families talk more with each other about different aspects of the faith that maybe would not normally come up in discussion in home. Also, some families pray together, but not all, so it's a unified effort to help foster family prayer. Think of the words of Venerable Patrick Peyton: "The family that prays together stays together."

It is a different approach, so for some families it may take a little time getting used to it. With the busyness of so many people's lives, this is not intended to be just one more thing that parents have to do, but actually something that can help foster the faith in the home in a very natural way. That is why each lesson is intended to be talking for maybe five to ten minutes a few days a week. It is not meant to be an hour-long classroom style.

Our Evangelization Team is here to offer different tools to help the parents grow in their knowledge of the faith and ways to share the faith with their kids.

Any parents who have not registered their children in the program will need to contact the Evangelization Team this week to do so (also, if they have not picked up the needed materials from the office, please do that as well). Please keep all families involved in your prayer so that this will bear fruit in the faith lives of the children and their families.

#### Join us for Youth Nights for Grades 8-12

All youths in Grades 8-12 are invited to join our monthly Youth Nights. The first Friday of the month is for boys, the second Friday of the month is for girls. We meet from 7-9 p.m. downstairs in the church for competition, snacks, discussion, and prayer. We adhere to Covid guidelines.

Youth Nights are part of Confirmation Preparation for Grades 8 and 9.

## Pray for the Souls in Purgatory every Thursday

The Catholic Church consecrates the month of November to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. Are you aware that there is a Holy Souls Apostolate at Our Lady of Mount Carmel? We meet every Thursday at 9 a.m. in the main Church for one hour of prayer devoted to the Holy Souls. Our mission is to gain release for the souls in Purgatory who can no longer help themselves. Prayer books and pamphlets are provided free of charge. Please stop by even if you cannot remain for the entire time. For more information see our brochure located in the Narthex and by the back entrance, or call Dolores de Paiva at 508-252-4826.

#### Bishop da Cunha's 2020 Christmas Message

Dear Friends in Christ,

Christmas is upon us, although seemingly a bit different this year. Because of the pandemic, many of us will not be celebrating in the ways we typically associate with Christmas — large family gatherings, holiday parties, seasonal concerts, and caroling.

However, I firmly believe that this can be a very special Christmas with less emphasis on many of the external and social dimensions of the season. What we have instead is an opportunity to focus more on the spiritual aspect — the true meaning of Christmas: the coming of Christ into our lives and into our world. So my prayer and hope for each one of you is that, as you celebrate Christmas this year — as family, as friends, as a community of faith — Jesus will be at the center of all that you do, the purpose for all you do and give meaning to all you do. Let us put Jesus back into Christmas, and as the saying goes, make Jesus truly the "reason for the season."

This year, more than ever before, is a time to remember the blessing of the Octave of Christmas. The Catholic Church does not keep the celebration of Christmas to December 25 only. Christmas is celebrated over eight days, from Christmas Day to January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. What a marvelous opportunity to embrace the joy of the season, allowing the Light of Christ to dispel the darkness of the past nine months. Just as I did during Advent, I again encourage you as a family to place Christ at the center of your celebrations.

To all of us in the Diocese of Fall River, may the coming of Christ, the Prince of Peace, fill us with a new peace, one that only He can give. Let us embrace not only His peace, but the joy of this season. I believe we will get through all the challenges ahead of us with the Lord's help. In His presence, in His grace, we'll reach a unique place this year where we can truly say that Christmas is about Christ.

May the peace, hope, and joy of this season be with us now and remain with us far beyond this Christmas. May these gifts, that only God can bestow upon us, reign in our hearts, in our homes, and in our world. May God bless you and your loved ones, and may you enjoy a very happy, joyful, blessed, and Merry Christmas.

Merry Christmas! Feliz Natal! Feliz Navidad! Joyeux Noël!

Sincerely yours in Christ, Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V. Bishop of Fall River

#### **OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH**

984 Taunton Ave., PO Box 519, Seekonk, MA 02771

Website: olmcseekonk.org
Email: office@olmcseekonk.org

Facebook: OLMCSeekonk Twitter: @OLMCSeekonk

Formed: OLMCSeekonk.formed.org

Pastor: Rev. Kevin A. Cook, fr.cook.olmc@gmail.com

Permanent Deacon: Matthew Sweeney Transitional Deacon: Peter Scheffer

 Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

 Office telephone: 508-336-5549
 Fax: 508-336-9010

 Parish Center: 508-336-9015
 Rectory: 508-336-9022

 $Administrative \ Assistant: \textbf{Kelley Nieviera}, kelleyolmc@gmail.com$ 

Secretary: Laure Lynch, lmlyncholmc@gmail.com Rectory Assistant: Meg Mulvey

Maintenance: Dave LeClair Custodian: Sheila Ducharme

#### **EVANGELIZATION AND FORMATION**

Baptism Preparation, Registrations, Family Faith Formation (1-7), Youth/Young Adult Ministry, Adult Ministry:

Lori Lavigne, L.Lavigne.olmc@gmail.com, 508-233-3312

## 1st Communion/Reconciliation, Confirmation, Marriage Preparation, RCIA/Adult Sacraments:

Christine Gregorek, c.gregorek.olmc@gmail.com, 508-336-5549

#### MUSIC MINISTRY

**Director of Music: Jean Kusiak,** 401-225-3700, JMKusiak@comcast.net **Choir** performs at 10:45 Mass and special liturgies. Rehearses on Tuesdays 7-8:30 p.m., September-June.

**Children's Choir** performs at special liturgies, 9 a.m. Mass. Rehearses the Sunday of, 8:15-8:45, lower church.

#### ALTAR SERVERS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, LECTORS

Schedules: www.olmcseekonk.org

(Select "Liturgy" from the top bar, then "Liturgical Ministries," then "Schedules.") For scheduling: **Laure Lynch**, lmlyncholmc@gmail.com, 508-336-5549

To become an altar server, Eucharistic minister, or lector: 508-336-5549

#### **SACRAMENTS**

**Confessions** are heard in the St. Joseph Adoration Chapel on Saturday from 3:15-4 p.m., and on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 4:30-6 p.m.

**Baptisms**: Congratulations! Please contact Lori Lavigne at the parish office to register in the parish and sign up for Baptismal Preparation as soon as possible. Preparation can be done prior to baby's birth, if preferred.

**Marriage**: Congratulations! Please notify the parish office eight months in advance of your wedding.

**Anointing of the Sick** takes place on the first Friday at the 9 a.m. Mass.

#### **MASSES**

Monday-Saturday: 9 a.m. (except Thursday 6:30 p.m.) Saturday 4:30 p.m., Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:45 a.m. HOLY DAYS: 9 a.m., noon, 7 p.m. (Vigil 5:30 p.m.)

#### **ORGANIZATIONS**

#### **Gathering Grandmothers**

Jan Smart, 508-336-5118 Meets at noon Fridays in St. Joseph Adoration Chapel to pray Novena to St. Anne for protection of children.

#### **Holy Souls Prayer Group**

Dolores de Paiva, 508-252-3826 Meets at 9 a.m. Thursdays in the church

#### Jordan Ministry

508-336-5549

#### **Knights of Columbus**

Rolland St. Pierre, 508-336-2102 Meets 3rd Friday

#### Men of St. Joseph

Bob Bertoncini, 401-447-8136 Meet 2nd Thursday at 7 p.m.

#### Men's Prayer and Fellowship

William Kearney and Marty Doyle, 508-243-0880 Meets 1st Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

#### Ministry to the Sick

Pat Swanson, 508-336-5549

#### **Parish Nurses**

Elizabeth Charnecki, 508-252-5718 Blood pressure clinics Wednesdays after Mass, Sept.-June.

#### **Prison Ministry**

Frank Gibbons, 508-336-5461

#### Prayer Group

Barbara Craveiro, 508-889-6472 Meets 2nd Wednesday at 7 p.m., lower church

#### Pro-Life Group

Ron and Claudette Larose, 508-252-4336

#### St. Vincent de Paul

Marie Morrell, 401-603-8888 Meets 2nd Tuesday at 7 p.m., Sept.-May

#### **Seekonk Catholic Cancer Support**

Elizabeth Charnecki: 508-252-5718 Meets 1st Saturday

#### **Senior Luncheon Committee**

Call to register: 508-336-5549 K.C. Hess Jay Brennan Paco Pedro Luncheon held 2nd Tuesday except June, July, Aug.

Editericon field 2nd Tuesday except june, july, ria

#### **Vocation Committee**

Joanna Young, 508-336-3473



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