

# OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

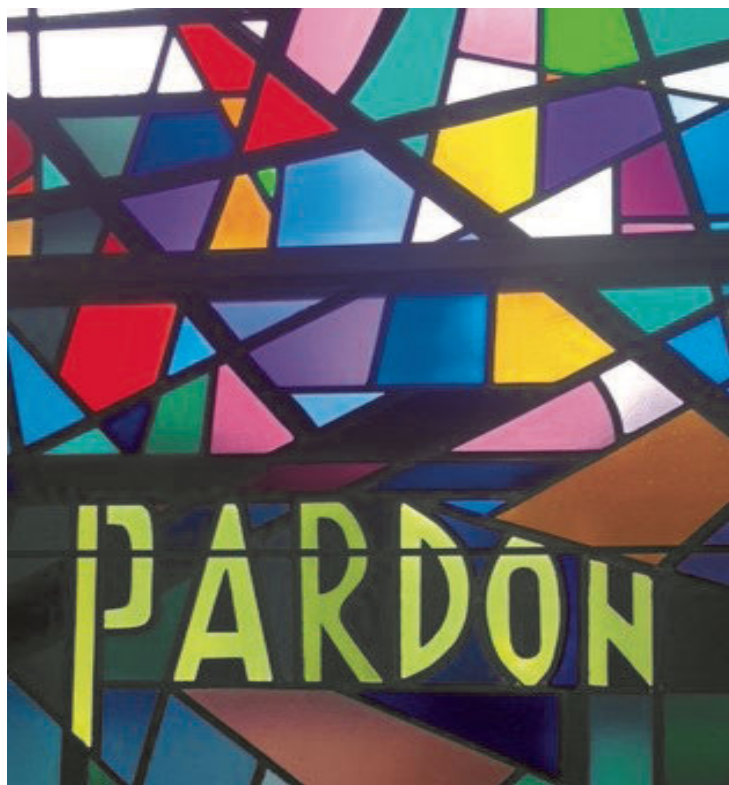
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Main Phone Number ~ 201.391.2826

[www.motherofthechurch.org](http://www.motherofthechurch.org)

## Our Mission

Called by our baptism and nourished by the Eucharist, the parishioners of Our Lady Mother of the Church, acknowledge our mission to teach, share and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we create a welcoming environment, enthusiastically gather and worship to praise God, and strive to imitate the life of Jesus as we reach out beyond our own faith community.



## TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME~AUGUST 27, 2023

**Rev. Jason Mantich,**

*Administrator*

**Ext. 201**

[jasonolmc@proton.me](mailto:jasonolmc@proton.me)

**Fr. Siffredus Rwechungura,**

*Parochial Vicar*

### Parish Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Thursday

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Friday CLOSED (for Summer)

### Parish Directory

**Raquel Condon,**

*Director of Religious Education*

(201) 391-7400

[faithformationolmc@gmail.com](mailto:faithformationolmc@gmail.com)

**Judi Quinn,** *Administrative Secretary*

**Ext. 200**

[judiolmc@yahoo.com](mailto:judiolmc@yahoo.com)

**Vito Delzotto,**

*Parish Council President*

### Weekdays

Monday-Friday 8:30am

### Weekends

Saturday

5:30 pm & 8:00 pm

Sunday 8:30am & 10:30am

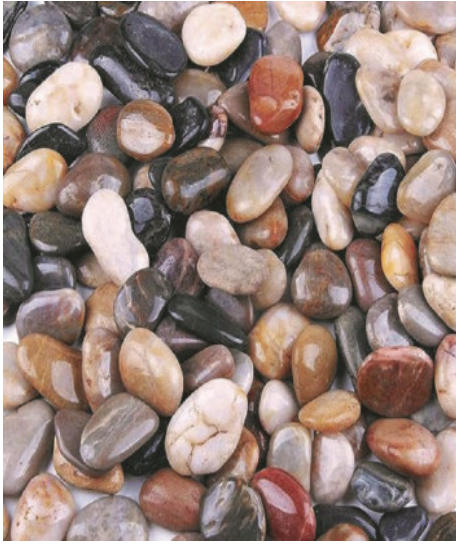
### Holy Days

See bulletin for schedule of Masses

### Reconciliation

Saturday 4:30 pm to 5:00 pm

## FROM FR. JASON



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus says to Simon Peter, "And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it." Jesus promised that even hell will not prevail against his Church. In every century, hell sure as hell has tried. The Catholic Church has always been public enemy number one to all evil tyrants and all atheist revolutions. Many times, it seemed that the Church was dying, but she always resurrected. If the world lasts for another ten thousand years, or even more, we can be sure of only two things that will last with it. That would be the people Israel and the Catholic Church. God made two solemn covenant promises to them, and God never revokes His promises.

Let's look at the other part of what Jesus says to Simon Peter. It is almost a joke that Jesus calls Simon 'Peter,' or 'rock.' In the four Gospels, Peter looks like anything but a solid and reliable rock. Peter constantly says and does the wrong thing. He fails to fulfill the request of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane right before His arrest. Jesus finds him asleep with James and John. At Jesus' trial, he would deny he ever knew Jesus three times. After Jesus' death, Peter is completely overwhelmed by his sin and the discovery of his own weakness and quits. He goes back to the only work he feels he can do, fishing. If Jesus had called him 'Sandy' instead of 'Rocky,' perhaps the other disciples would not have been surprised.

Did Jesus make a mistake with Simon Peter? No way. Jesus does not make mistakes. All of Peter's mistakes and failures were part of his training. His failures humbled him; the mistakes made him little. The history God did with Peter made it impossible for him to later steal God's glory after Pentecost. Peter *became* a rock after Pentecost when the Holy Spirit took control of his life.

The change is undeniable if we contrast Peter in the Acts of the Apostles with Peter in the Gospels. In Acts 2:14, we read, "Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed to them, 'You who are Jews, indeed all of you staying in Jerusalem. Let this be known to you, and listen to my words.'" No longer denying Jesus in front of others nor overwhelmed by his own weakness, he risks everything to evangelize. Jesus' words in this Sunday's Gospel about Peter being the rock are not a present observation but a future *prophecy*. Jesus knew who Peter was of himself, but He also knew what Peter would become with His help.

Today, Jesus asks us the same question he asked Peter, "But who do you say that I am?" God is doing a History of Salvation with each of us. Are we aware of it? Could it be that God has to show us we are no better than Peter? Is it possible that, like Peter, it is necessary we be emptied of ourselves so that we can be filled with Him? No doubt. I know one thing, I never planned to become a priest. I had other plans for sure. But as I tried to find the answer to the question Christ asks us today, I discovered that His plans were way better. And with His help, we can all become "Rocky."

Peace,

# AUGUST 27, 2023

**Saturday**

5:30 pm

**Sunday**



**August 26**

John Neubauer

**August 27**

*Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time*



Eileen English

8:30 am

10:30 am

**Monday**



**August 28**

*St. Augustine*

8:30 am

**Tuesday**

Lillian & Joseph Calabro

8:30 am

**Wednesday**

**August 29**

*The Passion of St. John the Baptist*

8:30 am

8:30 am

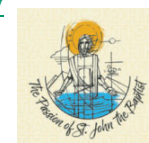
**Thursday**

**August 30**

George & Peter Lutz

8:30 am

**Friday**



**August 31**

Ernest Infante

8:30 am

**Saturday**

**September 1**

Catherine Hastie

8:30 am

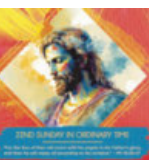
**Sunday**

**September 2**

Joseph Miller

5:30 pm

**Sunday**



*Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8:30 am

10:30 am

6:00 pm

Jennifer Hartmann

Edmond P. O'Connor

Patricia Foley

*For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven."*

*Ecclesiastes 3:11*

**"A time to be healed"**

**Parish sick list:** Marie Barrett, Rev. Bob Connor, Arlene Desposito, Ethel Dubrowski, Ed Evans, Trevor Giesberg, Ann Goodwin, Kathy Hedley, Brad Jones, Joachim Jung, Vivienne Knopp, Ken Kubicki, Ivy LaRegina, Genna Lepore, Julia Geraghty, Robert Libonati, Jessica Livingstone, John Mandile, Joyce Merlino, John Mullins, Carol Myack, David Plummer, James Ranaazzo, Gail Roberts, Carol Schmidt, Jean Sember, Tara Shankman, Bro. Kevin Smith, John Vallely, Eric Vanderleif, Mary Jane Weir and Bryce Werner

**"A time to mourn"**

**"A time for war and a time for peace"**

Tyler Aiello, Ryan Brady, Lcpl. Joseph Ryan and Seamus Ryan

**Amen.**

The Bread and Wine will be offered for  
the month of August  
in memory of



**Roy Gormley**

Requested by the Kinnear Family

## Stewardship of Treasure

### My Parish, My Family, My Responsibility

**"Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid?" - Romans 11:35**

St. Paul reminds us of a central fact of stewardship. We cannot give God anything - He already owns it all. God made everything, including us. Since we are made in His image, we too, are called to be generous. How we use our God-given gifts becomes our gift back to Him. Gratitude for all we have been given opens our hearts to joyful generosity! And, through our generosity, we just may be the answer to someone else's prayer.

**Receipts From Last week.....\$3,141.00**

**Parish Giving.....\$1,730.00**

**Restoration Fund.....\$ 350.00**

**Maintenance Fund.....\$ 45.00**

**Assumption of Mary.....\$ 780.00**



Thanks to everyone for your generous donations to the Food Pantry in August. Our next collection will be the **next weekend. The requests for this month are: peanut butter, jelly and pasta sauce.** While we are grateful for ALL donations, the food pantry cannot distribute expired food items. **Please make sure you check the expiration dates on all the donated food items.** Any other donations are of course welcome as well. All those concerned at the pantry deeply appreciate your continued generosity.



## FAITH FORMATION



We look forward to working with you in helping your child grow in the Catholic Faith. If you need a copy of the registration form, please visit the parish website, or email the Faith Formation Office at [faithformationolmc@gmail.com](mailto:faithformationolmc@gmail.com)

### We offer three programs:

#### Faith Formation (1st-6th grade)

Meets on Wednesdays after school from 3:45 pm-5:00 pm. Classes begin and end in the Church and are taught by volunteer catechists. Discounts will be given to those families who volunteer a parent as a catechist for the Faith Formation year.

#### Youth JAM (Youth Jesus and Mary, 7th and 8th grades)

Meets on the third Sunday of the month from 4:30 pm-7:00 pm, September thru May.

Parents will be **REQUIRED** to volunteer to help during those sessions **AT LEAST** one of the Sundays of the year. We need at least two parents every Sunday session.

Every family will have a meeting with Fr. Jason in September. Sign-ups to volunteer for specific days will be done at the meeting with Fr. Jason and will be on a first-come-first-served basis.

#### Confirmation (9th grade)

Meets on the Third Sunday of the month for an hour after the 10:30 AM Mass (11:30 AM-12:30 PM) September thru May.

Parents will be **REQUIRED** to volunteer to help during those sessions **AT LEAST** one of the Sundays of the year. We need at least two parents every Sunday session.

Every family will have a meeting with Fr. Jason in September. Sign-ups to volunteer for specific days will be done at the meeting with Fr. Jason and will be on a first-come-first-served basis. Payment will be collected at the time of registration. Fees are as follows: for 1 child \$215, two children \$240 and three or more children \$265; a \$50 Sacramental Fee will be added to students in second and ninth grades.

Please email: [faithformationolmc@gmail.com](mailto:faithformationolmc@gmail.com) if you are new to the parish, have any questions, or would like to volunteer as a Catechist!

## TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



My name is Gina Franco and I have started a grief group here at OLMC. Through the loss of my amazing daughter, Do-

minique, who was only 21 when she passed unexpectedly on 2/16/19. I have created a Facebook Page, Grief Warriors, that gives people a safe, sacred space and now am looking forward to give people here at OLMC a place to share their stories, give HOPE and FAITH in healing together. **We will next meet on September 11th at 7:00 pm.** Hope to see you in celebrating all the love our loved one continues to give us.

**OPUS DEI** **A morning of recollection** for women is held on the 3rd Thursday of each month here at Our Lady, Mother of the Church. Beginning at 9:30 am until 11:30 am. The next date is September 21. It is offered to all women to live the Catholic faith well. The content is inspired by the teachings of St Josemaria, the founder of Opus Dei. ([www.opusdei.org](http://www.opusdei.org)). Please contact Jeanne Hennessey (201) 463-7563, [jmhennessey6@gmail.com](mailto:jmhennessey6@gmail.com) for more information.

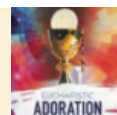
**SOUP KITCHEN** **Can you help to feed the hungry at St. John's Soup Kitchen, Newark?** Our parish needs your help to do this corporal act of mercy with your time, and generosity. Please **sign up in the lobby. Cookies and Casseroles are needed by 8 AM Thursday Sept.7. Servers are needed for Saturday, Sept. 9.** Casserole pans will be available in the kitchen for pickup with your name and recipe the weekend of 8/26-27. **THANK YOU! We bring the food down to the Soup Kitchen at 8 am on Thursday: Sept 7.** Please mark your calendars for **the next serving** in 2023: Sat. Dec. 2. Casseroles and cookies will be needed by Thursday, November 30. If you can help, please email [patkeena-ghan@yahoo.com](mailto:patkeena-ghan@yahoo.com) or text/call 201-403-4897. God bless you for helping to feed the hungry.

# AUGUST IS THE MONTH OF IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY



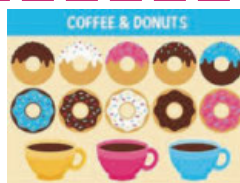
We have an opportunity to attend the 50th Anniversary Jubilee Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC on September 16th! The parish of Our Lady of Mercy in Park Ridge has invited us to hop on their bus! Please see the information to the left from the diocese about the day. The cost would be \$50 a seat for the bus and it will leave Saturday morning at about 5AM and return the same day at about 11PM. This is a pilgrimage the diocese makes every three years; you can ask Fr. Jason about the graces he received from making the pilgrimage in the past. Please let Fr. Jason know ASAP if you would like to go so, he can reserve a seat on the bus for you. His email address is: JasonOLMC@proton.me

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**\*\*Will resume September 13th\*\***

Eucharistic Adoration every Wednesday from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.



**Yes! It is that time again. Fellowship Coffee starts again September 10th. The new dates are on the board next to the kitchen window.**

**Please sign up for a Sunday! This is a great way to meet your fellow parishioners and spend some time with your faith community.**

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK PRESENTS OUR SIXTH ANNUAL**

## **BENEFIT FOR OUR HOMELESS**

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**Catholic Charities**

## Open House

Bergen Catholic will be hosting Open Houses on Tuesday October 3rd at 6:30pm and Sunday November 5th at 1pm. Registration can be found on the Bergen Catholic website. For questions, please the admissions office at [admissions@bergencatholic.org](mailto:admissions@bergencatholic.org)



## Attention ALL 8th grade students:

Bergen Catholic will be hosting an HSPT prep course for interested students applying to local catholic high schools in November. Course dates and registration information can be found on the Bergen Catholic website. For questions, please contact Matt Rosa '08, VP of Admissions at [mrosa@bergencatholic.org](mailto:mrosa@bergencatholic.org).

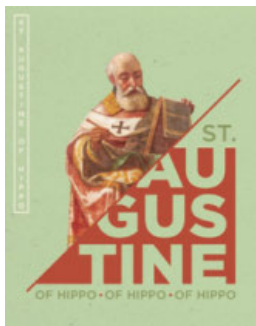


## The Passion of Saint John the Baptist

"I tell you among those born of women, no one is greater than John," Jesus told the crowds (Luke 7:28). John the Baptist, the forerunner, came to prepare the way of the Lord, and he did that from the first moments of his life. In his mother's womb, he leapt for joy at the nearness of the Lord.

He preached repentance to the people, preparing them for the coming of the Kingdom, and baptizing them with water so that they might be prepared to receive baptism "with the Holy Spirit and with fire". Even in his death, John prepared the way for the Lord.

He boldly told Herod that he was violating the law in taking his brother's widow as his wife, and Herod had him arrested and imprisoned and then executed. Even in his martyrdom, he prepared the way of the Lord, pointing to the way of the cross.



## Memorial of Saint Augustine

*Bishop and Doctor of the Church*

Saint Augustine of Hippo (354-430) is one of the four great Latin Fathers of the Church. Augustine was born in North Africa in present-day Algeria. His mother was Saint Monica and his father, Patricius, a pagan. Augustine showed early promise as a scholar, but he disappointed his mother by espousing Manicheism (gnostic religion) and leading a hedonistic life (a life devoted solely to pleasure), even living with a mistress with whom he had a child. Eventually, due to Monica's prayers, he decided to become a Christian and was baptized by Saint Ambrose in Milan. He became a priest, and later, the Bishop of Hippo. Augustine was a prolific writer and is credited with writing one of the first autobiographies, his *Confessions*. His books, homilies and letters are a rich source of theological insight still mined today by students of every Christian denomination or ecclesial community.

## Who Do You Say That I Am?

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

I once knew a very devout woman whose adult godchild had fallen away from the practice of the faith. This godchild still believed in God, and even felt a sense of belonging in the Church. He was a good and kind person. But poor catechesis and a society that confuses pleasure with joy had left him lax in practice, without an appreciation of the sacraments. He was making choices that threatened his soul.

His godmother wanted more for him. She planned to speak with him about his life, hoping to encourage him to return to the practice of the faith. She knew that, when she brought this up, he would reply that it wasn't important to attend Mass or to receive the Eucharist, that was all just "extra."

She told me that she was going to begin their conversation by asking him the question Jesus poses to Peter in Matthew 16:15 — the critical question in all our lives, the question whose answer will define what we become in this world and the next.

Her godson knew the answer. She was confident, unshakably, that he did. He may have forgotten it or ignored it. He may have tried to convince himself he wasn't entirely sure. He may have refused to give an answer. But he knew it. He knew the answer.

There is a reason that, after Peter's response, Jesus gives him the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

"Who do you say that I am?"

Let our whole lives be our answer.

*"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." — Matthew 16:16*



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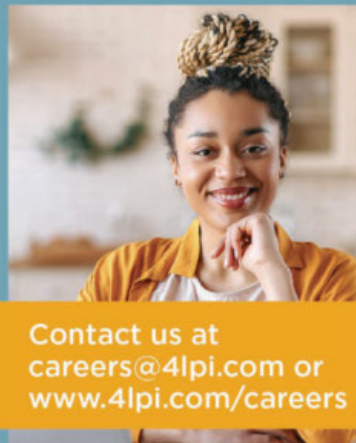
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