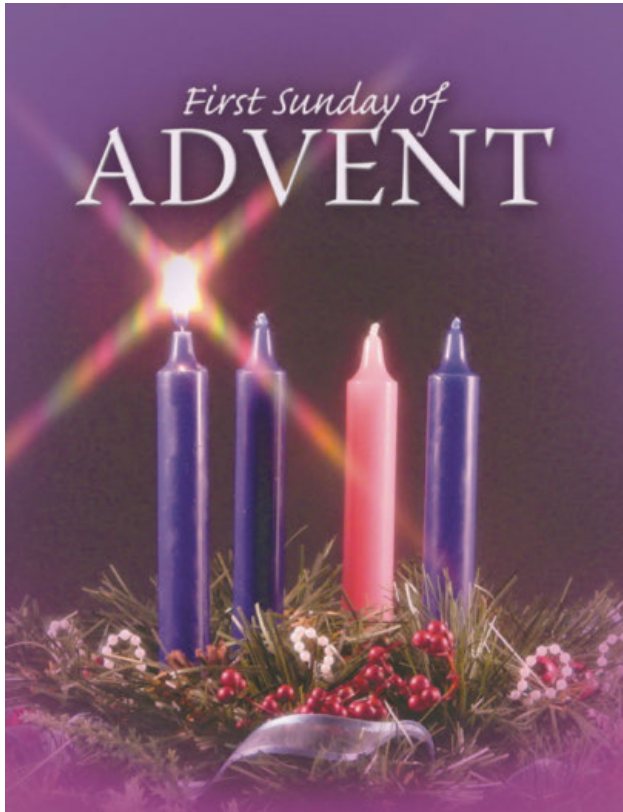


# Our Lady of Mercy Parish Bulletin

40 Sullivan Drive, Jersey City, NJ 07305

201-434-7500    olmjparish@olmnj.org    olmnj.org

First Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2023



## NEW LECTORS AT OUR PARISH

Maria Flores and Ramon Alonzo, seen here with Fr. Marty and Deacon Edwin, were recently commissioned to serve as lectors at Mass.



## BAPTISMS AT OUR PARISH, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26



Samantha Sonza,  
daughter of Marc & Cecilia Sonza



Theo Ethan Fernandez,  
son of Jude and Trisha Fernandez



Dear Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy,  
Welcome Advent Season!

Yes, we are now in the first week of Advent. This is the time when we begin to prepare to celebrate the coming of the Son of God in flesh. A few weeks from now, we will celebrate the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. This is as good a time as any to start thinking about what precious gift we can give to Jesus this Christmas. So, I urge you to really ask yourself what that gift might be.

One of the preparations for Christmas that our parish offers is the Advent reflection series being given by Father Anton Sarento called "Journeying to Bethlehem." This series allows us to let our minds and hearts be transported to that time when Mary was carrying Jesus in her womb and then gave birth in Bethlehem.

It was an exciting time for Mary and Joseph. God chose them to be his instruments so that the Son of God could be born and live with us in human form. Can you imagine their joy and excitement? I believe that those who are parents can imagine and feel what Mary and Joseph did much better than us, non-parents. You know how it feels to expect a child on the way to its birth.

So, brothers and sisters, try to re-live how Jesus broke into our world by reading the scriptures and meditating on the life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. This will give you a better appreciation of Jesus' coming, of His "Advent," and your journey towards Christmas day will be more meaningful and filled with gratitude and joy. Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus, come!

Saying that, I would like to encourage you to check our upcoming parish events. One of them is the parish Christmas party on Sunday afternoon, December 17. Let us celebrate together joyfully as one parish community. Tickets are on sale after every Mass on the weekend, and every day in the parish office.

Last Sunday, through the Sacrament of Baptism, we welcomed Theo Ethan and Samantha to our Christian community. In the name of our parish, I congratulate Theo's parents, Jude and Trisha Fernandez, and Samantha's parents, Marc and Cecilia Sonza on the baptism of their children. I also congratulate the godparents of these children. The whole community prays that these parents and godparents will be fully equipped with wisdom and love so that they will be able to help these children grow in the knowledge and love of God and their neighbors.

I would like to end this column by asking you to prepare a Christmas gift to Our Lady of Mercy, your parish, of \$200 per household. This amount was approved by our Parish Finance Council.

The members also said that if you are more financially blessed, you might give more than \$200. They believe, based on their personal experience, that the "more you give, the more you will be blessed!" So, please do so, because the parish is in dire need of your support. In my previous bulletin column, I mentioned some of the repairs needed in our parish building. As your pastor, I beg for your support and prayers.

Thank you so much and God bless you all!

Love,

+*Father Marty*

## SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

### The First Sunday of Advent, Dec. 3

Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9-6 Mark 13:33-37

### The Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 10

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 2 Peter 3:8-14 Mark 1:1-8

## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

REGULAR COLLECTION \$7,265

### THANKSGIVING, NOVEMBER 23

COLLECTION \$1,771

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

REGULAR COLLECTION \$7,447

Thank you so much for the generous and unending support through your Stewardship of Treasure!

## PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Names of the sick are published for four Sundays. Please contact the office to add or to continue a name.

### *Week One*

Miriam Robles

## POPE'S DECEMBER

## PRAYER INTENTION

## FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.





**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8,  
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

This Friday, December 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holy day on which we are expected to join in the celebration of Mass. This holy day celebrates our belief that through the favor of God, Mary was kept free from sin and the power of evil from the first moment of her conception. Mary, under her title of the Immaculate Conception, is the patroness of the United States.



**Masses for the Holy Day  
Friday, December 8,  
7 am, 8:30 am, 7 pm**



**SIMBANG GABI,  
OUR ADVENT NOVENA OF MASSES  
IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS**

***A Filipino Advent Tradition***

**December 15 to 22 at 7 pm**

**Saturday, December 16 & 23 at 5 pm**

A nine day celebration of evening Masses to usher in the birth of Our Lord and Savior.

Contributions / Offerings of Non-Perishable Food will benefit the Food Pantry at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Jersey City.



**PARISH  
CHRISTMAS PARTY  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17,  
2 pm to 6 pm  
IN THE MARIA ROOM**

**Dine, Drink, and Dance!  
Games, Raffles, Pictures with Santa**

**Tickets are \$10 per person  
Children under three are free.**

**Tickets on Sale after our Weekend Masses  
and Weekdays in the Parish Office**

**Please purchase your ticket by December 11.**



**JOURNEYING TO BETHLEHEM**

***An Advent Reflection Series  
with Fr. Anton Sarento***

**The Journey continues Saturday,  
December 9 & 16,  
from 9 am to 10:30 am  
in the Maria Room**

Everyone is invited to this Advent Series with Father Anton Sarento. This is a perfect way to spiritually prepare for the coming celebration of the great Feast of Christmas.

**2024  
MASS  
INTENTIONS**

Our 2024 Mass Book is now for your Mass intentions. Masses may be scheduled on weekdays during regular office hours, 8 am to 3 pm, and on Saturdays and Sundays, between 9 am to 1 pm.

Please note that during the first month the Mass Book is open, we request that parishioners book no more than 5 Masses. In addition to Mass intentions, you may also make donations for the sanctuary lamp and for the bread and wine used at our Masses.

The suggested offering for weekday Masses is \$15, and the suggested offering for Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses is \$25.

The suggested offering for the sanctuary lamp that burn by the tabernacle, or the bread, or the wine to be used at our Masses is \$25.

**SENIORS CAFÉ**

**TODAY, SUNDAY, DEC. 3**

**from 9 am to 10 am**

**in the Maria Room.**



**inviting all those  
55 and up to join us !**



#### **SATURDAY, December 2**

5pm Rachel del Rosario r/b Macalalag Family

#### **SUNDAY, December 3, The First Sunday of Advent**

8am For the People of the Parish

10am Roberto Hizon r/b Valenzuela Family

12pm Ansy Smith r/b Your Family

#### **MONDAY, December 4**

7am Milagros Teves (Birthday Blessing)  
r/b Janet Banaag

8:30am Bryan Villa (Birthday Blessing)  
r/b Elleth Villa

#### **TUESDAY, December 5**

7am Antonio Villarica r/b Nymia Villarica

8:30am Carmelita Putzi r/b Angel Vibar

#### **WEDNESDAY, December 6**

7am Rosalyn Ramos (Birthday Blessing)  
r/b Ramos Family

8:30am Natasha Marie Tuazon (L)

#### **THURSDAY, December 7**

7am Concepcion del Rosario (Birthday in Heaven)  
r/b Bobby & Hanelli del Rosario

8:30am Rosemary Wodzanowski (11<sup>th</sup> Year in Heaven)  
r/b Len Wodzanowski

#### **FRIDAY, December 8, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

7am Gertude Longo r/b Olga Fraraccio

8:30am Luis Almonte (Death Anniversary)  
r/b Letty Almonte

7pm Gonzales Daulo r/b Annie Casino & Family

#### **SATURDAY, December 9**

8:30am Purgatorial Society

5pm Rachel del Rosario r/b Macalalag Family

#### **SUNDAY, December 10, The Second Sunday of Advent**

8am For the People of the Parish

10am Cynthia Contreras  
(In Thanksgiving for God's Blessing)

12pm Pacifico Yanga (Death Anniversary)  
r/b Rose Duque



#### **SANCTUARY LAMP**

The Lamp burning over the tabernacle in the church is offered for **Kai Otto Wesener** r/b Lanting Family.

#### **BREAD & WINE**

The offering for the Bread to be used this week at our Masses is given for **Antonio Villarica** r/b Nymia Villarica.

The offering for the Wine to be used this week at our Masses is given **In Memory of the Deceased Members of Our Parish Family.**



#### **PARISH INFORMATION**

Our Lady of Mercy Roman Catholic Church  
40 Sullivan Drive, Jersey City, NJ 07305

**Phone: 201-434-7500**

**Web: olmnj.org**

**Email: olmjparish@olmnj.org**

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday to Friday 8 am to 3 pm

Saturday 9 to 1 pm Sunday 9 am to 1 pm

#### **STAFF**

*Pastor*

Reverend Marty B. Jacinto

*Parochial Vicar*

Reverend Antonio Sarento Jr.

franton@olmnj.org

*Sunday Associate*

Reverend Jack Cryan

*Permanent Deacons*

Deacon Meynardo Espeleta

Deacon Edwin Dava

*Pastoral Associate For Faith Formation*

*& Youth / Young Adult Ministries*

Regina 'Jeng' Matias-Villa

reginavilla@olmnj.org

*Director of Music Ministries*

Liam Barredo

musicministryolmjc@gmail.com

*Assistant Director of Music Ministries*

Krystelle Pring

*Parish Trustees*

Guillermo "Guiz" Macalintal

Henry Racelis

#### **MASS SCHEDULE**

**Monday – Friday: 7 am & 8:30 am**

**Saturday: 8:30 am, 5 pm**

**Sunday: 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon**

#### **RECONCILIATION/ CONFESSIONS**

**Monday through Friday 9 am to 9:30 am**

**Saturday 4 pm to 4:30 pm**

#### **MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND**

If you or a relative is hospitalized or homebound and wish a visit from a parish priest, contact the Office.

#### **EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place every First Friday of the month from 9 am until 12 noon.

#### **HOW TO REPORT ABUSE**

*The Archdiocese takes very seriously all allegations of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy, religious and lay staff.*

*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. Individuals who wish to report an allegation of sexual misconduct may do so by calling the Archdiocesan Office of Protection of the Faithful at (201)407-3256.*



## THE GIVING TREE AT OLM

The Giving Tree is part of the Advent Season at OLM.



The stars, which are on the trees in the church, describe gifts requested by various charities. The beautiful aspect about the Giving Tree is that the giver does not know the receiver, and the recipient does not know the giver, but both are touched by the love

of Christ who calls us to love our neighbor.

Len Wodzanowski, the Director of our Giving Tree Program, would like to share a few paragraphs from the letters he has received requesting our parish's support through our annual Christmas Giving Tree Program.

**BROADWAY HOUSE** is a nonprofit organization and New Jersey's only specialized care facility for residents with AIDS. We are requesting your assistance to continue creating memorable moments during the holiday season for our residents to experience.

As we prepare to celebrate the holy season of Christmas, we ask you and your parishioners to once again share with **SEVERAL SOURCES SHELTERS** in the blessed calling of helping pregnant women and needy young mothers and their babies.

We greatly appreciate the assistance and of the members of Our Lady of Mercy in helping our families at **CATHOLIC CHARITIES** who are in difficult circumstances. Family #1 is composed of a single, unemployed mother, aged 34, residing with her daughter, age 14, in Jersey City. Family #2 is made up of parents who have lost their primary source of income, they have five children, ages 6 to 16, and a grandmother living with them.

Thank you so much for considering **COVENANT HOUSE NEW JERSEY** as the recipient of your holiday gifts. Gift cards are the most helpful gift you can give since they allow our staff to shop for the specific sizes and needs of our youth. With your help, our Covenant House community will overflow with the hope, the promise, and the joy that is Christmas, **OUR LADY OF SORROWS** and **PEACE CARE SAINT ANN'S** each extend a big thank you and look forward to your help this Christmas through your Christmas Giving Tree Program.

Please return your gifts, unwrapped, not later than Sunday, December 17. Place them under the trees or bring the gifts to the parish office. Thank you for your generosity!



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