

Our Lady of the Assumption Church

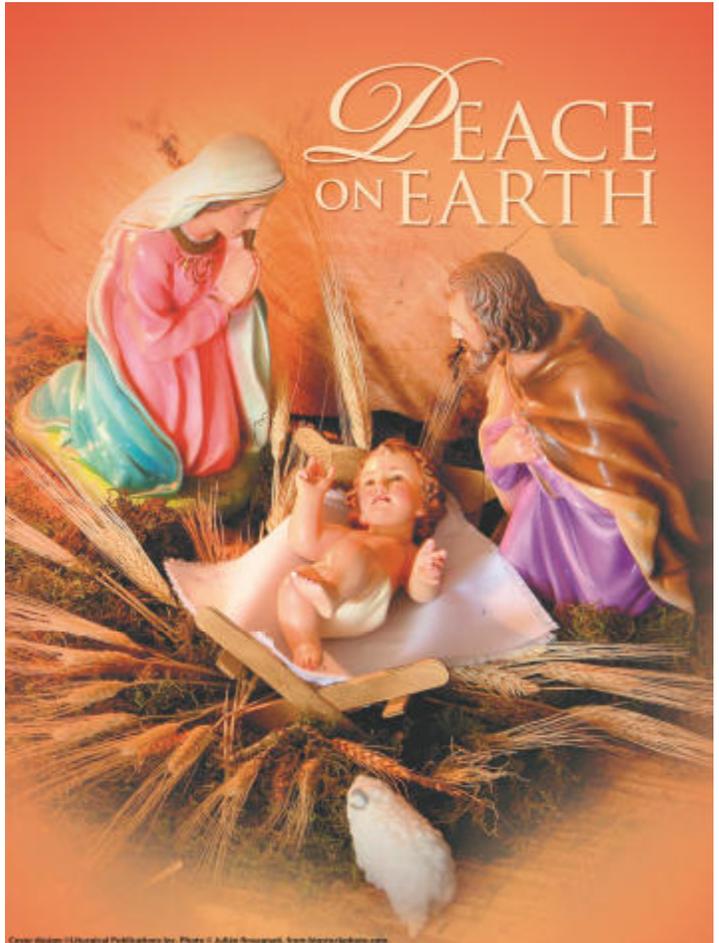
Osterville, Massachusetts

76 Wianno Avenue
Osterville, MA 02655

Telephone 508-428-2011
Fax 508-428-0154
www.assumption-capecod.org

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:30 am - 3:00 pm
Closed 12:30pm-1:30pm



Pastor Rev. John J. Perry, Requiescat in pace

Administrator Rev. Matthew Gill

Parochial Vicar Rev. Sudhir Nayak

Deacons Deacon James M. Barrett
Deacon Keith R. Caldwell
Deacon Theodore E. Lukac

Director of Music

Dot Lortie, 508-771-1029; lortie@comcast.net

Director of Altar Guild Linda M. Gademan

Director of Faith Formation—GIFT

Bill Bussiere, 508-775-5744,x119;
Billb@olvparish.org

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Jim Hines, President; Meets the first Tuesday of the month in the Church basement at 5:00pm

Our Lady's Guild

Rosalyn Doran and Nuala Quinn, Co-Presidents
76 Wianno Avenue, Osterville, MA 02655

Knights of Columbus

Bill Shinnick, 901-299-2024

Bulletin Submissions

Notices must be received two Thursdays (nine days) prior to publication date. Listings subject to editing. Send to: kim@olvparish.org

Celebration of the Eucharist

See pre-registration details in the bulletin

Saturday, Vigil, 4pm

Sunday, 9am and 11am

Daily Mass: Monday-Friday at 8am

Masses will continue to be Livestreamed on
olvparish.org

Confessions: Saturdays from 3pm to 3:40pm in the Parish Annex building. Please enter through the Annex and be seated at an appropriate distance from others as you wait for the Sacrament.



OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

December 26 and 27

Sat 4pm Camela and Francis P. Luca
Sun 9am Catherine Byrne
11am Patrick McDonnell

December 28-January 1

Mon 8am For the Parish
Tues 8am Rita, John, David and Gary Kusek
Wed 8am Manuel B. Couto
Thurs 8am Special Intention
Vigil 4pm World Day of Prayer
Fri 8am World Day of Prayer

January 2 and 3

Sat 4pm Virginia Sullivan
Sun 9am Special Intention
11am Special Intention

OUR LADY OF VICTORY

December 26 and 27

Sat 4:30pm People of the Parish

Sun 9am Carolyn Bergen
11am Alan Donheiser
5:30pm Richard B. McNamara, Sr.

December 28-January 2

Mon 9am Robert Hurd
Tues 9am Robert Hurd
Wed 9am Special Intention
Thurs 9am
6pm People of the Parish.
Fri 9am
6pm
Sat 9am Community Mass

January 2 and 3

Sat 4:30pm John Carney

Sun 9am Barbara Murphy
11am
5:30pm

ALL ARE WELCOME

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church, no matter what your current family and marital situation, no matter what your personal history, age, background, race, etc., no matter what your own self image; you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected here.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

We are blessed at Our Lady of the Assumption, Our Lady of Victory and at Our Lady of Hope to have thoughtful, generous parishioners who support the good works of our faith community with their time, talent and treasure. Thank you for your spiritual and financial commitment to our Parishes.

Electronic Giving

We understand this is a challenging time. If your means allow and you would like to mail your offering to the parish office, we are still checking our mail each day. We are also pleased to offer WeShare as a method to contribute electronically.

Visit our website:

<https://www.assumption-capecod.org/>
and see link to the We Share at the bottom of the homepage. *Thank you.*

Weather Cancellations

During the week, if Barnstable schools are cancelled, Masses are cancelled as well.

If schools are delayed, morning Mass is cancelled. On the weekends, we will make the decision as early as possible.

In any case, please use your best judgment on travel, since conditions can change rapidly.

We will post closings on the TV on WCVB, and on the radio stations WXTK, WCOD and Cool-102, as well as WQRC, WOCN, WKPE, and capecod.com. If we are able, we will also post on Facebook as well as our websites.



BECOMING HOLY AND THIRSTING FOR GOD

Another morning and I wake with thirst for the goodness I do not have. I walk out to the pond and all the way God has given us such beautiful lessons. Oh Lord, I was never a quick scholar but sulked and hunched over my books past the hour and the bell; grant me, in your mercy, a little more time. Love for the earth and love for you are having such a long conversation in my heart. Who knows what will finally happen or where I will be sent, yet already I have given a great many things away, expecting to be told to pack nothing, except the prayers which, with this thirst, I am slowly learning.

- Mary Oliver, *Thirst*

Today's Sunday's Gospel is a story of people working to be holy and thirsting for God! We first hear the story of the prophets Anna and Simeon who finally have their wish come true in coming face to face with the Savior. Simeon describes this exaltation best when he exclaims: *“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.”*

We, too, must work on our holiness and thirst for God and there is no better way to do this than by following the example of the Holy Family.

You know, at first glance, it would seem it would have been good to have had a book about the early years of Jesus and to have heard the stories of his upbringing by Mary and Joseph. But on second thought, I think Our Father in Heaven knew that we didn't need this, because we as families all ready “get it” on our own. Mother's know it at their moment of conception like Mary did and Fathers, like Joseph, begin to understand in a profound way on the birthday of their child. We learn instantly just how precious the life that has been handed to us is!

Another lesson our Gospel teaches us is that being holy and thirsting for God is a lifelong endeavor where we wait patiently for God to change us by our persistence, trials, and tribulations with the help of His saving grace . We see this in the example of Anna and Simeon who spent their entire life in the temple in search of God and it is through the power of the Holy Spirit that their wish is granted.

And we heard it in Mary Oliver's poem who professes it beautifully where she says: *“grant me, in your mercy, a little more time.”*

One saint who wrote beautifully about this was the founder of Opus Dei, St. Jose Maria Escriva. Opus Dei is an institution in our church which teaches that everyone is called to holiness and that ordinary life is a path to sanctity.

St. Escriva wrote: *‘ A lifetime is not too much to ask in exchange for what the Lord has prepared for those who love Him, but here the Christian paradox comes into play: To live fully, we must die fully. ‘ Only if a person forgets himself and gives himself to God and to others, in marriage as well as in any other aspect of life, can he be happy on this earth, with a happiness that is a preparation for, and a foretaste of, the joy of heaven. ‘*

This is what we all do as parents isn't it sacrificing our lives for our family. No one set a better example of this then Jesus who in some of his very last words stated “ I thirst” for all of us! One who began his experience of “thirst” by entering into humanity with us in a special way through his Incarnation as a human being. It is the essence of what Christmas is all about. Sacrifice and Giving!

Merry Christmas and Peace,

Deacon Ted

First Reading **SIR 3:2-6, 12-14**

God sets a father in honor over his children;
a mother's authority he confirms over her sons.
Whoever honors his father atones for sins,
and preserves himself from them.
When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who
reveres his mother. Whoever honors his father is
gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard.
Whoever reveres his father will live a long life;
he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother.
My son, take care of your father when he is old;
grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail,
be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his
life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten,
firmly planted against the debt of your sins
—a house raised in justice to you.

Responsorial Psalm

**Refrain: Blessed are those who fear the Lord and
walk in his ways.**

Second Reading **COL 3:12-21**

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy
and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility,
gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and
forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against
another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also
do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of
perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your
hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one
body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in
you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish
one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
with gratitude in your hearts to God.
And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything
in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the
Father through him. Wives, be subordinate to your
husbands, as is proper in the Lord. Husbands, love your
wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them.
Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is
pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your
children, so they may not become discouraged.

Alleluia

R. *Alleluia, alleluia.*

Let the peace of Christ control your hearts;
let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

R. *Alleluia, alleluia.*

Gospel **LK 2:22-40**

When the days were completed for their purification
according to the law of Moses,
They took him up to Jerusalem
to present him to the Lord,
just as it is written in the law of the Lord,
Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to
the Lord,
and to offer the sacrifice of
a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons,
in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.
Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was
Simeon.

This man was righteous and devout,
awaiting the consolation of Israel,
and the Holy Spirit was upon him.
It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit
that he should not see death
before he had seen the Christ of the Lord.
He came in the Spirit into the temple;
and when the parents brought in the child Jesus
to perform the custom of the law in regard to him,
He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:
“Now, Master, you may let your servant go
in peace, according to your word,
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in sight of all the peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and glory for your people Israel.”

St. Thomas Aquinas Prayer After Communion

I thank You, Lord, Almighty Father, Everlasting God, for
having been pleased, through no merit of mine, but of
Your great mercy alone, to feed me, a sinner, and Your
unworthy servant, with the precious Body and Blood of
Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that this Holy
Communion may not be for my judgment and
condemnation, but for my pardon and salvation.
Let this Holy Communion be to me an armor of faith and
a shield of good will, a cleansing of all vices, and a
rooting out of all evil desires. May it increase love and
patience, humility and obedience, and all virtues. May it
be a firm defense against the evil designs of all my visible
and invisible enemies, a perfect quieting of all the desires
of soul and body. May this Holy Communion bring about
a perfect union with You, the one true God, and at last
enable me to reach eternal bliss when You will call me. I
pray that You bring me, a sinner, to the indescribable
Feast where You, with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, are
to Your saints true light, full blessedness, everlasting joy,
and perfect happiness. Through the same Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Masses at Our Lady of the Assumption and Our Lady of Victory parishes. The temporary schedule for each parish continues as follows with pre-registration for Sunday Mass required.

Sunday Mass

Our Lady of the Assumption:

Saturday, 4pm

Sunday, 9am and 11am

Our Lady of Victory:

Saturday, 4:30pm

Sunday, 9am, 11am and 5:30pm

*All Masses at Our Lady of Victory will continue to be Livestreamed on olvparish.org

Daily Mass Schedule

Our Lady of Victory: Monday through Saturday at 9am.

Our Lady of the Assumption: Monday through Friday at 8am.

Registration for daily Mass is not required at this time.

The Rosary will take place as normal before Mass and we ask that people arrive 10-15 minutes early for daily Mass.

Registration for weekend Masses begins on Sunday at noon and ends at 6pm on Friday, and at this time you must register each week.

For OLA Masses:

Please call 508.428.2011 x201 or email massregistration@assumption-capecod.org

For OLV Masses:

508.775.5744 x107 or email massregistration@olvparish.org for OLV Masses.

PLEASE BE SURE TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WITH EACH REGISTRATION:

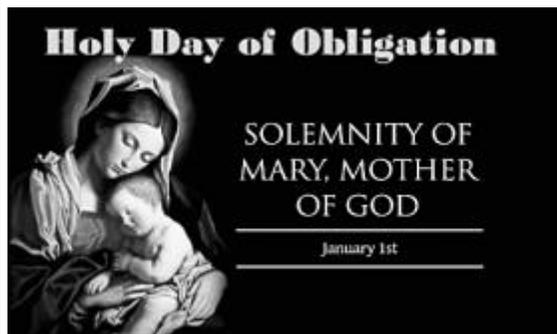
- Names of all attendees
- A Phone number
- And Date, time and church of the Mass you wish to attend

Please wear a face covering into church, bring hand sanitizer, and arrive 20 minutes early.



What do I need to do for Mass?

- **Please bring and wear a face covering into church.** A face covering is not primarily for yourself but for those around you.
- **Please bring hand sanitizer.** We will have sanitizer at the doors of the church, however this supply must be used prudently and carefully for all parishioners for several weeks.
- **You MUST come 20 minutes early.** This is crucial. We will not be able to keep social distancing if everyone shows up exactly at the time of the Mass.
- **Please follow the instructions of the staff/volunteers/signs.**



Our Lady of Victory

December 31: 6pm; Adoration following Mass

January 1: 9am and 6pm



Our Lady of the Assumption

December 31: 4pm; Adoration following Mass

January 1: 8 am

TAKE FIVE FOR FAITH!

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.



Sunday, Dec 27, 2020

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

Resume the conversation

It happens all the time: The younger generation departs from traditional ways, while the older one wrings its hands and predicts the end of the world. The kids are abandoning our values, mistrusting our institutions, taking terrible risks, and setting out in a dark direction! Without a doubt, the turnover of each generation is the end of “a” world—that is, the one the rest of us knew, built, and got comfortable in. Each family has to keep the lines of communications open, so that wisdom gets passed on and change becomes less scary. Holy families keep the conversation going.

“Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”

Readings for the Week of December 27, 2020

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Monday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18

Friday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28

Monday, Dec 28, 2020

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS
Suffer little children

On the heels of the joyful celebration of the birth of our Savior, we remember the Holy Innocents—all the baby boys who were murdered by Herod in his attempt to kill the child Jesus. Remember too all those innocents who die today at the hands of their governments and who are victims of institutional and structural violence. About the Holy Innocents, Matthew quotes Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children . . .” Console today’s mourning mothers by fighting for children’s rights and protections. “My children, I am writing this to you so that you may not commit sin.”

Tuesday, Dec 29, 2020

MEMORIAL OF THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP, MARTYR

Choosing right vs. might

Thomas Becket found himself having to choose between an earthly king and Christ the King. The cleric Thomas befriended England’s Henry II—leading Henry to appoint him chancellor. Later, when Henry spotted a chance to wield power over church affairs, he named his friend the archbishop of Canterbury. But Thomas would not go along with Henry’s plans. Repercussions followed, and in 1170 Thomas was brutally murdered—in Canterbury Cathedral—by the king’s men. Though perhaps with less dramatic outcomes, standing up for your convictions may cost you, too. Are you willing to pay the price? “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many.”

Wednesday, Dec 30, 2020

The party never ends

On this sixth day of the Octave, the Christmas celebration continues. Or it can—even if the culture around us has moved on. Especially in pandemic days, you may feel challenged to find hope and joy in the promise that God is with us. So celebrate by sharing that Divine Love, however you feel able to. Bake and share cookies, make a call to someone you may have overlooked this busy season, write a note of gratitude to someone who challenges you, or contribute to an organization that cares for mothers and children in this season of the Holy Family. Take time in prayer to recollect and give thanks for any awareness of God’s presence in recent days. Loving God, help me remember that Christmas is not a day but rather a season that invites me to see you at work in my life every day.

“And coming forward at that very time, [Anna] gave thanks to God and spoke about the child.”



Thursday, Dec 31, 2020

The light still shines

We might well ring out a difficult year with the words of today's psalmist: "Let the heavens be glad and the Earth rejoice!" Rejoicing implies an expectation of better things to come, placing us firmly within the Christian virtue of hope. Christians are hopeful for many reasons, starting with the fact that Jesus's death led to resurrection. The church teaches, too, that hope lies in building the kingdom of God on Earth, "as it is in heaven." Lift up your hopes for 2021 to God, and be ready to work for them with God's grace.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Friday, Jan 01, 2021

**WORLD DAY OF PEACE;
SOLEMNITY OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,
THE MOTHER OF GOD**

Renew the face of the Earth

We have longed for the year 2020

to be over, to move away from the pandemics that have wounded us collectively and individually. With 2021 on the calendar now, it feels like maybe, just maybe we can start anew at some point. Given the chance, we, along with all of creation, have the capacity to renew, that is, to be "new again"—not only each year but each moment. An essential ingredient to renewal is peace. The church calls us to follow Christ the Way of Peace, as Pope Benedict said on this day in 2007, "with hearts full of hope, notwithstanding the dangers and difficulties that surround us." Let us pray for and choose peace for ourselves and for the world in all that we renew this year. "Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart."



Saturday, Jan 02, 2021

**MEMORIAL OF BASIL THE GREAT AND
GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BISHOPS, DOCTORS
OF THE CHURCH**

Spiritual friendship lasts for ages

Spiritual friendship is one of the greatest gifts of life in a faith community. Basil and Gregory, fourth-century patriarchs of the Eastern Church, had such a friendship and spurred each other on to great accomplishments and service in their spiritual lives. We all need community and spiritual support as we work through the mysteries of our own personal lives and the challenges presented by a suffering world. Who can you count on for support and encouragement in these hard times? Do your resolutions for this new year include cultivation of spiritual community and friendships? "

From Rome With Love

Hailing Mary as the "queen of peace," the Pope noted that Mary, during her earthly life knew difficulty.



"But she never lost her peace of heart, a fruit of having abandoned herself with trust to the mercy of God. We ask Mary, our tender mother, to point the whole world to the sure path of love and peace."

Peace is a gift that comes through prayer and through small daily efforts to sow harmony in one's family, parish and community, Pope Francis added.

"At the beginning of this new year, we are all called to reignite in our hearts a spark of hope, which must be translated into concrete works of peace: You don't get along with that person? Make peace. In your home? Make peace. In the community? Make peace. At work? Make peace."

The Green Team

After the holidays, recycle your Real Christmas Trees which are biodegradable. Most towns on the Cape allow you to bring your Christmas tree to your transfer station. They will then chip the trees and let the town use the wood chips or mulch for gardening and plantings. Many towns will make the mulch available for use in your garden.



GOD GRANT ME THE
Serenity
TO ACCEPT THE THINGS
I CANNOT CHANGE:
Courage
TO CHANGE THE
THINGS I CAN:
AND *Wisdom*
TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.



**Our Men and Women
in the Service**

Our parishes pray for those currently serving, at home and abroad, in the military.

Pvt . 1st Class Michael Bilodeau, USM
 LT Marius Bernotas, USN
 ENS Andrius Bernotas, USN
 Capt. Tyler Jean Nauss, USA
 Private Brian Lawrence, Jr.
 Capt. Sean Villano, USAF
 Capt. Jonathan S. DeMille, USA
 Sgt. Evan Salvaggio USA
 2nd Lt. Liam G. Furey, USA
 Capt. Matthew Cavanaugh, USA
 Maj. Dennis Williams, USA
 1st Lt. Ian Horkan, USA
 Colonel Paul J. Nugent, USMC
 Capt. Justin M. D'Olimpio USAF
 Maj. Andrew Ryan Wing, USMC
 Sgt. Andrew Bowman USMC
 Cpl. Brian J. Sullivan, USMC
 Pvt. Jack DeLorey;
 RCT Patrick MacNeely
 Warrant Officer Matthew Plicque, USA
 2nd Lt Peter Murphy, Airborne
 Chaplain Bob Monagle
 Capt. Billy Murphy, USN
 Cpl. Patrick J. Kelley
 LCpl Andrew J. Kelley
 LCPL Robert Connolly IV
 Captain Sean P. Kelley, USN
 PFC William Russell Perry
 Sgt. Jacob W. Morash
 Capt. Jared A. Ripperger
 PFC Cory Briggs
 Lt. Kalen Kropa
 Capt. Michael Mayo Taylor, USA
 Brig. General Benjamin T. Watson, USMC
 Major John B. VanderVoort

PFC Tim Strong, USN
 LCDR Conor O'Neil
 1st Lt. Hannah E. MacLeod-Pryg USA
 1st Lt. Lucas Pryg, USA
 Warrant Officer Steve Capt. Matthew Antil Goodwin, USMC
 2nd Lt Thomas O. Mullen, USAF
 Staff Sgt. Joseph Moore
 Pvt. Jake Bryan, USA
 SO1 Michael Reeves USN
 CO Rusty Williamson, USN
 Spc. Alexander Kelsall, USA Surgeon
 Capt. Michael D. Crowley, USMC
 Capt. Christopher Roy
 SPC Tucker McLoughlin, USA
 Lt. Robert Havens, USAF
 Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Noddin Poulin, USN
 Lt. Kalen Kropa, USN
 Lt. Katherine Noddin Poulin, USN
 Lt. Stephen Noddin Poulin, USA
 Spc. Brooks Noddin Poulin, USA
 Lt. Cmdr. Catherine Long, USN
 Matthew Tutunjian, CG;
 QM2 Daniel-Lee Searfoss, USN.

To add a loved one or to let us know when they are no longer serving:
kim@olvparish.org



Please Pray for the Sick of Our Parishes



Mary Ann Barbara
 John W. Best
 Peter F. Brady
 Emily Calamari
 Donald Capobianco
 Joe Carpentieri
 Irene Farrell
 Steve Goveia
 Shailene Dillon Klunk
 Barbara Korkuch
 Jennifer Kuehne
 Shaun Laughlan
 Brenda Liakos
 Brad Martin
 Patricia O'Connell
 Elizabeth Garvey Olsen
 Victoria Whalen
 Eileen Reardon
 Richard Shea
 Charlie Swain

All Members of the Cancer Support Group
All those affected by COVID-19

If you or your immediate family member need to be added to the list or removed, please contact, kim@olvparish.org. Additions to "Our Sick" list will be printed for three months.

*Almighty and Eternal God,
You are the everlasting health of those
who believe in You.*

*Hear us for Your sick servants for who we implore the aid of Your tender mercy, that being restored to bodily health, they may give thanks to You in Your Church.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

PRAYER SHAWL REQUEST

If you wish to request a prayer shawl, please fill out this form and place it in the collection basket. You may also contact Priscilla DeLeon-Vinson at 774-836-8030 or pdv@comcast.net



Name of recipient:

Your name: _____

Your phone number: _____

Phone number needed for delivery of Prayer Shawl.

Parish Offices Are Closed

The OLV and OLA Parish Offices are closed for in-person business at this time. You can reach us via email or by leaving a phone message (contact information listed on front of bulletin) and we will be happy to assist you.



Weather Cancellations

During the week, if Barnstable schools are cancelled, Masses are cancelled as well.

If schools are delayed, morning Mass is cancelled. On the weekends, we will make the decision as early as possible. In any case, please use your best judgment on travel, since conditions can change rapidly. We will post closings on the TV on WCVB, and on the radio stations WXTK, WCOD and Cool-102, as well as WQRC, WOCN, WKPE, and capecod.com. If we are able, we will also post on Facebook as well as our websites.

Bereavement Group to Begin via ZOOM

If you need consolation and fellowship after losing a loved one, this Christ-centered faith sharing group of prayer and Scripture is for you. There are four different *Seasons of Hope* sessions that run over the course of the year. Due to our inability to meet in person at this time, the next session will meet via zoom on Tuesdays beginning on January 5th, 2021 from 1-3 p.m., we meet for 6 weeks per session. Access to the internet via laptop or tablet with a microphone/camera feature is needed in order to participate. Set up assistance is available upon request prior to the first meeting. Registration by December 28th is required. To register: Donna Erdman, donna@christthekingparish.com Those who participated in a recent pilot found the zoom group very helpful and plan to return.

Knights of Columbus

K of C Council 2525, 500 Club monthly raffle December winners are: \$250: Hugh O'Neill, Centerville; \$100: Bruce Baxter, Sandwich; \$50 Winners: Anne Mulhern, Natick; David Letsch, Centerville; Kent Kids, Wilmington. You can join anytime for \$50.00 and you are in 12 consecutive Monthly drawings with 60 chances to win. Applications are available in the parish office or in the box outside of the K of C Hall entrance. For more information email Council2525@yahoo.com or call 508-775-4054



Have You Donated?

Thank you to all who responded to the letter concerning the Annual Appeal. We thank you for your continuing generosity.

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

January 1, 2020

The feast is a celebration of Mary's motherhood of Jesus. The title "Mother of God" is a western derivation from the Greek Theotokos, which means "God-bearer." On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Through the Holy Spirit, God the Father prepared Mary to be the dwelling place where His Son and His Spirit could dwell among men. Christ's birth was made possible by Mary's fiat, or sanctioning of God's plan with her words, "Be it done to me according to thy word." Calling Mary "Mother of God" is the highest honor we can give to her. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the "Prince of Peace," the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God honors Mary as the "Queen of Peace."



From Rome With Love

"Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart! (Lk 2:19). In these words, Luke describes the attitude with which Mary took in all that they had experienced in those days. Far from trying to understand or master the situation, Mary is the woman who can treasure, that is to say, protect and guard in her heart, the passage of God in the life of his people. Deep within, she had learned to listen to the heartbeat of her Son, and that in turn taught her, throughout her life, to discover God's heartbeat in history. She learned how to be a mother, and in that learning process she gave Jesus the beautiful experience of knowing what it is to be a Son. In Mary, the eternal Word not only became flesh, but also learned to recognize the maternal tenderness of God. With Mary, the God-Child learned to listen to the yearnings, the troubles, the joys and the hopes of the people of the promise. With Mary, he discovered himself a Son of God's faithful people. - from the Homily of His Holiness Pope Francis, Jan. 1, 2017



THE SALVE REGINA

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy.
Hail our life, our sweetness and our hope!
To You do we cry, poor banished children of Eve!
To You so we send up our sighs: mourning and weeping
in this vale of tears!
Turn then, most gracious Advocate, Your eyes of mercy
toward us; and after this, our exile, show unto us the
blessed fruit of Your womb, Jesus!
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!

GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Tragedy and disappointment are inevitable. What sees you through this? There will be challenges, changes, unexpected circumstances, interrupted plans, hurts, and injustices experienced by every human being at some point in their lives. We will be asked to adjust our plans, change course, and even encounter suffering and death. Where do we learn all of the lessons we need to live life well? Some of them we learn along the way but much of what we bring to life, positive and negative, comes from our early beginnings, our families. This is our early world and provides the blueprint for how we see the bigger, more inclusive world, which unfolds before us.

Our families of origin can be sources of grace, heartache or a combination of both. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication, and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. They can also determine whether we have an accessible and healthy relationship with God. Many of life's challenges can literally bring



us to our knees and require that we possess a strength of character that resides well beyond the superficialities of our world. At some point we will all need three coping gifts that can be given to us only by God: faith, hope, and love. Our families help us learn that we are not the ones responsible for their creation, but God!

Our experience of early family life colors all of our relationships and what we expect to achieve from life in general. Resolving conflicts, dealing with difficulty and suffering, celebrating accomplishments, prioritizing

our needs, listening to God's call, understanding relationships, understanding disappointment, learning about the virtues and living a centered focused life are all lessons our families either succeed in teaching or do not. To succeed, as God has designed and ordered our world, is to discover his presence and then trust that Presence. The Holy Family can teach even the most dysfunctional family how to best use God's gifts of faith, hope, and love to find him and do his will. Their simple humble example is always before us, showing us the way. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

"For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

- Lk 2:30-32

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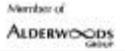
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