

Pastor's Desk

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD

May the celebration of this Christmas be one that the gift you hold most dear is the presence of God in those you love.

THANK YOU!

I need to repeat what I said last year as I am in awe of the spirit and generosity of our parish. In the midst of all the needs and demands that are placed on us through the pandemic the people of Our Lady of Sorrows have placed their parish as a priority. Your financial support has not waivered, your generosity at Thanksgiving and Christmas with food and gifts has been tremendous. The attention to the needs of our neighbors through the whole pandemic has been

overwhelming with the generosity to the pantry which is so inspiring it leaves me without words. So, there are just two words that cannot be repeated enough. THANK YOU!

ANOTHER THANK YOU

Thank you to all the Pantry volunteers under the direction of Julie Slattery who have served hundreds of people in the past 4 weeks. Also, to Lisa Arnone who has assisted so many families with your donations from the gift angels.

CHRISTMAS BREAK

The Parish office will be closed this week. Messages will be checked regularly. There will be morning Masses Monday – Wednesday at 7:30.

MARY MOTHER OF GOD, NEW YEAR'S DAY

Since the feast falls on a Saturday, it is not a day of obligation. Thus, there will be a 9:00 am Mass as we do each Saturday. There will be confessions, 4:00- 4:45 pm, and the 5:15 pm Vigil of Epiphany.

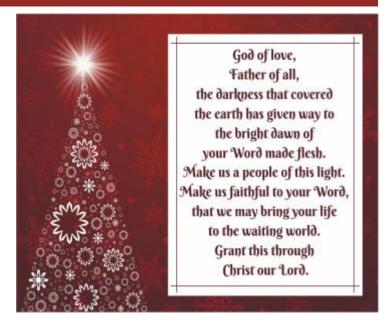
Father Donovan

The Nativity of the Lord

"He so loved us that for our sake He was made man in time, through Whom all times were made; was in the world less in years than His servants, though older than the world itself in His eternity; was made man, Who made man; was created of a mother, whom He created; was carried by hands which He formed; nursed at the breasts which He had filled; cried in the manger in wordless infancy, He the Word without Whom all human eloquence is mute (St. Augustine, Sermon 188)." The miracle of what happens at Christmas is truly an awesome mystery. Revealed in the silent ordinariness of life is God's intimate love for humanity and all that he made. The Word, existing for all time, comes and dwells among us. God kisses us. We can seek and soar with playful delight as a joy never known before fills our heart.

Joy is best expressed through dance. There is just something truly wonderful about the self-abandonment a beautiful melodic dance reveals. If we are able to let go and really be free, it celebrates life in a way few other experiences really can. With the birth of Jesus Christ, God takes the Divine Dance to a deeper and more tangible level. We can now not only see what we believe but believe what we see! This most perfect dance is a call to beauty, innocence, truth, purpose, hope, faith, and love. Today we know, beyond doubt, that we are a necessary part of God's beautifully choreographed masterpiece of life and not just a random happening without real intent or purpose. We are loved, treasured, and blessed.

Accepting the truth of God's birth in time we also accept an invitation to dance with God. We can let go of what tethers us to anxious concerns and superficial securities. Throw caution to the wind and go with God. We have been blessed with talents, gifts, and life eternal. Follow the rhythm of the dance with joy and listen to what the Word who became flesh tells us about what the next steps can be. Today, heaven remains the same, but earth has been profoundly changed.



Pastoral Care Corner

It is my sincere prayer for our "great" parish that we feel the

true presence of our newborn Savior this season.



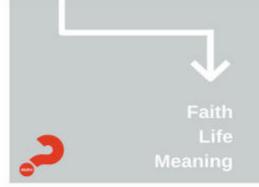
As I continue to share the Eucharist with many, I am blessed to be part of such a warm and welcoming community of faith. It is my pleasure to be your ambassador to so many and to help those who cannot be with us in person to continue to feel

connected. Their thoughts and prayers are with you as well. I pray for a blessed Christmas season for you all.

Jackie Adams

Upcoming Parish Events

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each session looks at a different question around faith & is a place to ask questions and share points of view.







Alpha is back! February of 2022



We share a meal, a video and have small group discussions to help you have spiritual conversations with others that explore life's biggest question in a safe respectful way.



If you attended Alpha before, now is the time to invite & bring a friend to one of our most popular programs at OLS. If you have not participated, you can come and check it out!

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR PARISH LENTEN MISSION

Steve Angrisano will be bringing his Mercy Mission to Our Lady of Sorrows March 5-7, 2022.



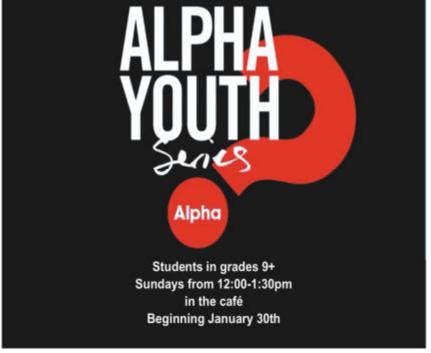
Steve Angrisano is undoubtedly one of the most effective and versatile ministry leaders in the church today. Young and old alike embrace the passionate message of faith, hope, and love woven throughout music and storytelling. Always rooted in a spirit of humility and faithfulness, Steve's easy, honest style of ministry is born from who he is: a committed witness to the life and love of Jesus Christ.

Steve will be at all weekend liturgies, with Mission nights, Sunday, March 6th and Monday, March 7th at 7:00 pm.

We hope you can join us for this beautiful message of Mercy.
Please watch the bulletin and our website for further details.

Faith Formation & Youth Ministry





Nazareth Farm

August 14-20, 2022

Nazareth Farm is a Catholic community in rural West Virginia that transforms lives through a service-retreat experience. Nazareth Farm is founded upon four cornerstones of prayer, simplicity, community, and service as the foundation and reason behind everything that they do. Students must be 16 years or older, or rising Juniors. Please sign-up if you are interested so that further information can be distributed to those who would like to consider this trip. Questions about upcoming youth activities may be directed to: Kelly Soprano - ksoprano@olsvestal.org

Ноор Ѕноот

All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2021 Knights of Columbus Hoop Shoot. The competition will be held January 9, 2022 at 1pm in our gym. (Registration begins at 12:30pm.) Please note that participants are required to furnish proof of age. Entry forms will be available at the registration table.

Weekly Prayer

Readings for the Week of December 26, 2021

Readings for	me Meer	oi becember 20, 202 i
Sun 12/26	First Reading	1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28
	Second Reading	1 John 3:1-2, 21-24
	Gospel	Luke 2:41-52
Mon 12/27	First Reading	1 John 1:1-4
	Gospel	John 20:1a, 2-8
Tues 12/28	First Reading	1 John 1:5-2:2
	Gospel	Matthew 2:13-18
Wed 12/29	First Reading	1 John 2:3-11
	Gospel	Luke 2:22-35
Thurs 12/30	First Reading	1 John 2:12-17
	Gospel	Luke 2:36-40
Fri 12/31	First Reading	1 John 2:18-21
	Gospel	John 1:1-18
Sat 01/01	First Reading	Number 6:22-27
	Second Reading	Galatians 4:4-7
	Gospel	Luke 2:16-21
Sun 01/02	First Reading	Isaiah 60:1-6
	Second Reading	Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
	Gospel	Matthew 2:1-12



Please Remember in Prayer

Observances for the Week

Sunday: The Holy Family

Monday: St. John

Tuesday: The Holy Innocents **Wednesday:** St. Thomas Becket

Friday: St. Sylvester; New Year's Eve

Saturday: Mary, The Holy Mother of God; World Day of Peace;

New Year's Day

Next Sunday The Epiphany of the Lord



... All those who have recently died & their families:

Robert Klein, former parishioner.

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 27

7:30am Rev. Donald Van Amburgh (15th Anniversary)

Tuesday, December 28

7:30am Jeffrey Paul Cornick (Anniversary) – Family & Friends

Wednesday, December 29

7:30am Dominick Annunziata, Jackie Foley & Gerald Mullins

Family

Saturday, January 1

9:00am James Carroll - Gloria & Maxine

5:15pm Robert & Ethel Estep - Keith & Rita Barney

Sunday, January 2

8:30am Zenaida Grepo Victa – Dominjo Jimenez & Family

11:00am Thomas Lynch – Dolly Menichello

Giving Tree

Thank you to everyone who participated in our annual Giving Tree. Each year with your generous support, we are able to help many of our neighbors in need celebrate the joy of Christmas. This year, through our Food Pantry, we provided Christmas food baskets and gifts to 145 families including 163 children. We also provided 108 children with gift cards at our two local elementary schools (Glenwood & Clayton Avenue) and gave gifts to 35 seniors through the Silver Bell program. The Giving Tree is meant to be a living symbol of the true meaning of Christmas. As we all know, "Jesus is the reason for the season." God has been good to us and thank you for expressing your thankfulness by sharing with others.

Sanctuary Lamps

...are burning in memory of Tonina Best, requested by Don & Tina.



Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Information

December 26, 2021

Parish Calendar

Daily Mass (Church) Monday-Wednesday 7:30am Saturday 9:00am

		Sunday, December 26
8:30am	Mass	
11:00am	Mass	
		Monday, December 27
Parish Office C	Closed	

7:00am Rosary

Tuesday, December 28

Parish Office Closed

7:00am Rosary

Wednesday, December 29

Parish Office Closed

7:00am Rosary

8:00am Adoration & Divine Mercy 6:00pm Youth Christmas Brunch (Café)

Thursday, December 30

Parish Office Closed

		Friday, December 31
		Saturday, January 1
4:pm-4:45pm	Confessions	
5:15pm	Mass	
		Sunday, January 2
8:30am	Mass	
11:00am	Mass	

OLS Social Media





Our Giving

Please note: This bulletin was sent to the publisher before any information about last weekend's offering was available.



Your generosity, charity and sacrifice are deeply appreciated. Thank you very much!

Parish Contact List

Parish Office (607)748-8287 Parish Email office@olsvestal.org (607)748-8287 Faith Formation (607)785-3214 Food Pantry (Julie Slattery) pantry@olsvestal.org **Dennis Slattery** Parish Council Tom Boslet (Grand Knight) tboslet02@gmail.com

Sacraments

Baptism

Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements. If this is your first child, a baptism prep online class is required. Any questions please call Diane Rigotti at 748-8287.

Marriage

Please call the Parish Office at least six months in advance to make arrangements.

First Sacraments & Confirmation

contact our Director of Faith Formation, ksoprano@olsvestal.org.

Ministry to the Sick

If a family member is hospitalized or homebound, please call the Parish Office as soon as possible. Privacy laws may prevent a hospital from telling us your loved one is there.

If you are moving ...

Please call or email the Parish Office with your new address and phone number, or let us know if you are leaving the parish.

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. John P. Donovan	jpdonovan@syrdio.org
In Residence: Rev. Laurence Lord	
Pastoral Associate: Jackie Adams	jackie@olsvestal.org
Adult Faith Formation:	
Diane Rigotti	diane@olsvestal.org
Business Administrator:	
Amy Sullivan	amy@olsvestal.org
Music Director: Matthew Vavalle	mvavalle@olsvestal.org
Director of Catechetics	
& Youth Ministry: Kelly Soprano	ksoprano@olsvestal.org
Front Office/Bulletin:	office@olsvestal.org
Kelley Marconi	olsbulletin@olsvestal.org
Back Office/IT: Kathy O'Brien	kathy@olsvestal.org
Maintenance: Mitch Bomysoad	
Sacristans: Tom Boslet & Dave Wa	iters

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