

# THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

## OUR LADY OF THE WOODS

21892 GUDITH RD, WOODHAVEN, MI  
734.671.5101 | [WWW.OLOW.ORG](http://WWW.OLOW.ORG)

DECEMBER 26, 2021



**Sunday, December 26**

- Viator Michel.....died 1981
- Cecelia Petri.....died 1983
- Adam Grab.....died 1996
- Matthew Azzopardi.....died 2000

**Monday, December 27**

- Hazel Mahoney.....died 1993
- Jason Tinsley.....died 2019

**Tuesday, December 28**

- Eugene Paris.....died 2019
- Elizabeth Faybik.....died 1989
- Christina Scotti.....died 1991
- Peter Ramirez.....died 1998
- Helen Engler.....died 2000
- Michael Piche.....died 2000

**Wednesday, December 29**

- Dona Karner.....died 1977
- Andrew Goodish.....died 1983
- Christopher Mindas.....died 2000
- Dolores Arnoldy.....died 2003
- Robert Hoffman.....died 2006

**Thursday, December 30**

- Josephine Rilley.....died 1995
- Monica Zuk.....died 2001
- James Butler.....died 2013

**Friday, December 31**

- Blair Zernick.....died 2005
- John Casagrande.....died 2019

**Saturday, January 1**

- Tammy Alberts.....died 1997
- Margaret Huber.....died 2002



**Prayer List for Service Men & Women**

- SSgt. Erika Antanovich (US Air Force)
- Cpt. Andrew Compean (US Army)
- Maj. Eric DuChene (US Marine)
- Jacob Godlewski (US Navy)
- 2nd Lt. Jeremy Gomez (US Air Force)
- 1st Lt. Brandon Marquette (US Marine)
- LT JG Nicholas Rigotti (Naval Reserves)
- MA2 Adam Strachan (US Navy)
- Spec. Nicole Kimberlin (US Army)



*Lord God, Almighty Father, creator of mankind and author of peace, as we are ever mindful of the cost paid for the liberty we possess, we ask you to bless the members of our armed forces. Give them courage, hope and strength. May they ever experience your firm support, gentle love and compassionate healing. Be their power and protector, leading them from darkness to light. To you be all glory, honor and praise, now and forever. Amen.*

Yvonne Alexander	Caleigh Butler	Mark Rigotti
Mary Allumi	Judie Caygill	Sylvia Rigotti
Bob Armiak	Lisa Colson	Nina Ringle
Patricia Bader	Dawn Marie Dick	Bill Steed
Mildred Bartkovich	Suzel Dion	Luke Theobald
Florence Brice	Margaret Dowie	Lidia Visocchi
Dan Budz	Joan Gomez	Joann Weeda
James M. Butcko	Sophia Kosciolko	Sue & Kit
Joyce Butcko	Sharon Koss	Whitehouse
Joseph W. Butcko	Norbert Linenfelser	Laura Wright
Joseph M. Butcko	Kim McGinn	Sarah
Andrew Butcko	Andi Pigott	
Michele Butcko	Jerry Preziebenda	
Patricia Butcko	Rita Ploskunak	



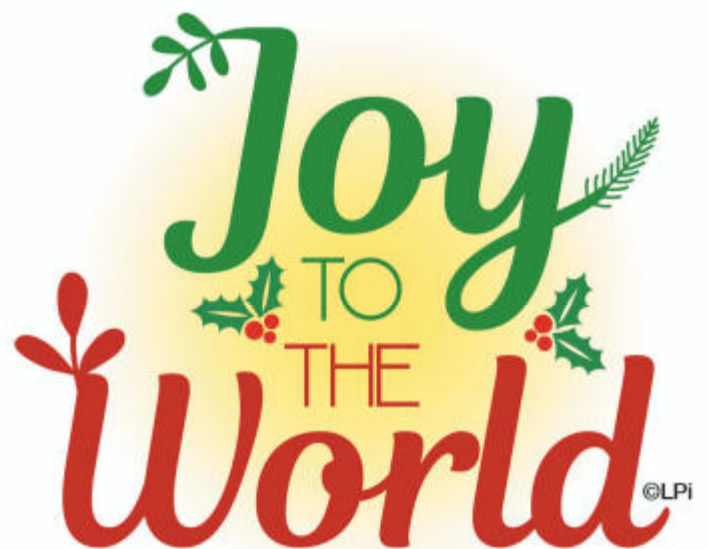
**Prayer to Save a Baby from Abortion**

*“Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion. Amen.”*

-Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

63, 331, 117

abortions in the United States since *Roe v. Wade* (1973).  
Source: [numberofabortions.com](http://numberofabortions.com)





# Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



**Monday, December 27**

**9:00am** †**Andrew Rodgers**  
req.by his wife Donna  
†**Jack Olekszyk**  
req.by the Perry family

**Tuesday, December 28**

**9:00am** **For all souls in Purgatory**  
req.by the Vu family  
†**For the soul of Ernesto Flores**  
req.by his family

**Thursday, December 30**

**9:00am** †**Mrs. Josephine Burton**  
req.by Ken Wells and family  
†**For the soul of Ernesto Flores**  
req.by his family

**Friday, December 31**

**6:30pm** **For the Parishioners of OLOW and their families**

**Saturday, January 1**

**4:00pm** **For an increase in vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life**

**Sunday, January 2**

**9:00am** †**Ray Thornberry**  
*(2nd year anniversary of death)*  
req.by his family  
†**Halina and Edmund Kowalewski and family**  
req.by the Korzen family

**11:00am** †**Joseph Hung Nguyen**  
req.by his wife and family  
†**John and Marlene Seltsam**  
req.by their daughter Ann



**December 11 & 12**

Envelopes: .....	\$7,923.00 (230)
Loose: .....	\$1,639.98
<u>Electronic: .....</u>	<u>\$3,162.00 (64)</u>
Total: .....	\$12,724.98
Budget: .....	\$9,992.30
Over(+)/Short(-) .....	+\$2,732.68

## What's Happening at Our Parish?

Sunday	Mass (with live stream), 9 AM Mass (with live stream), 11 AM
Monday	Mass, 9:00 AM SVdP Food Pantry (drive-up only), 10 AM RCIA, 3 PM
Tuesday	Mass, 9:00 AM Charismatic Prayer Group, 7 PM
Wednesday	SVdP Food Pantry (drive-up only), 10 AM Rosary, 6:30 PM
Thursday	Mass, 9:00 AM New Spirit Singers Rehearsal, 4:30 PM RCIA, 7 PM
Friday	Mass, 9:00 AM Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary, 6:30 PM
Saturday	Individual Confession, 3 PM Mass, 4 PM

For more information, visit [www.olow.org/Calendar](http://www.olow.org/Calendar)

## Observances

Sunday:	The Holy Family
Monday:	St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Tuesday:	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
Wednesday:	St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr
Thursday:	
Friday:	St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve
Saturday:	New Year's Day; Mary, The Holy Mother of God; World Day of Peace
Next Sunday:	The Epiphany of the Lord; Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

## Daily Readings

Sunday:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
Monday:	1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Tuesday:	1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
Wednesday:	1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
Thursday:	1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
Friday:	1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
Saturday:	Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Next Sunday:	Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

## From Our Hood in the Woods

### THE MOST HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

A very blessed and grace-filled CHRISTMAS SEASON to each of you, your family, and all your loved ones.

AND... **CHRISTMAS IS NOT OVER!!!** Even though you might see some Christmas trees go out on the curb in the very near future... WE ARE JUST BEGINNING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON in our Roman Catholic faith community! And what better way than to focus and align ourselves with the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Fr. Edward Looney, a priest of the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin writes in his article, *What Does The Holy Family Teach Us?:*

*“The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York houses a beautiful triptych of the Holy Family called the “Mérode Altarpiece,” painted by Robert Campin. The left of the three-paneled piece of art captures an open door of two bystanders peering into the main panel of the Annunciation, while the far-right panel depicts St. Joseph in his carpentry shop. This artistic masterpiece captures who the Christian is as they examine the life of the Holy Family and the extraordinary events surrounding their life and calling from God. Catching a glimpse of that home in Nazareth, where the Christ Child grew in age and wisdom into his adult years, we experience how the Holy Family informs family life in the third millennium. In the biblical stories of Jesus, Mary and Joseph we see their example of virtuous living.”*



The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, “Mérode Altarpiece”, By Robert Campin

As Fr. Looney states, this artistic masterpiece captures who we are called to be as disciples of Christ, as we examine the life of the Holy Family by considering our own family relationships and dynamics. And by taking time during this Christmas Season to catch “...a glimpse of that home in Nazareth...we experience how the Holy Family informs family life in the third millennium.”

Certainly, there are many challenges today for our families: at the very moment, the continued Covid-19 pandemic hits us in the face with continued masks and social distancing. And, along with the benefits of social media has come the

flip side of social media in which face to face, heart to heart, soul to soul communication is easily replaced with emojis, SMS language, or “text or chat speak.” We even find a polarization of political ideologies that has separated many of us to the point that most American families face the tension of these differing views especially at holiday gatherings.

And if this were not enough, of course, there is the horrific phenomenon of the mass shootings of gun violence attacking the very basic concept that “life is sacred.” Confusing are students, startling our parents, challenging our school administrations and teachers, and redefining the role of our police; the whole experience has started creating a whole new climate of suspicion, and awareness which students never before had to consider when entering their school lives each day.

***And in the midst of it all – we still have family life.***

Pope Francis established the Year of the Family on March 19, 2021, the Solemnity of St. Joseph. This marks the fifth anniversary of the publication of his Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, which means “The joy of love” and explores the beauty and joy found in family life.

The Year of the Family will conclude on June 26, 2022, on the occasion of the tenth World Meeting of Families in Rome with the Holy Father. ***Pope Francis established the Year of the Family to help strengthen faith and live God’s joy more fruitfully in family life.***

*(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4)

Each of the readings this weekend tries to help strengthen our faith and teach us how to live God's joy more fruitfully in our family lives: from our first reading of Sirach reminding us that the importance of family begins in "a house raised in justice," (which certainly has been under fire in our own days with how some parents are raising their children), to where Colossians reminds us that "...the peace of Christ must control our hearts"...and "...the word of Christ dwell in us richly..." important aspects of family life.

The Gospel of Luke illustrates the continued struggles of family relationships and commitments, as we see a very challenging moment found in the Holy Family, ultimately sharing that Mary's resolution through her own faith in God and love for her family "kept her pondering and keeping all of these moments within her heart...with Jesus we hear out of respect and going back to live in his family setting "advancing in wisdom and age and favor before God and human beings."

Let us pray for our own family, for other families, for our parish family of OLOW and our Family of Parishes, Downriver #3 (until we have a name!), and for family life in general: may we be inspired and encouraged by the values of the Holy Family in all that we say, live and do.

I close with the Year of the Family Prayer:

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love;*

*to you we turn with trust.*

*Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.*

*Make us mindful of the sacredness of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.*

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen.*

Merry Christmas and Blessed Holy Family Sunday!  
In the Word,  
Fr. Bob



## Merry Christmas!

As we come together from our respective communities to learn what it means to be a "Family of Parishes," I certainly come with the joy and expectation of the Holy Family around the events of Christmas. That same joy and expectation can also be realized as we venture into this new reality. Of course, there are a lot of questions, but I am hopeful that this will give us a chance to strengthen the pastoral ministry we are able to provide.

In my first few weeks in this new role, I have been amazed at all of the wonderful things that have been going on and the creative ways our parishes have continued to minister to families, especially during Covid. One main focus moving forward is how to serve whole families, not just children in faith formation. This includes high schoolers, parents, older adults, and everyone in between. The next few months will include plans to strengthen these programs as well as develop new ministries across the family of parishes to serve all of you!

May God bless you this Christmas and New Year!

Sean Calvin  
Director of Discipleship Formation  
Downriver Family of Parishes  
(734) 676-9082 x 19  
scalvin@stjosephstrenton.com

## Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass

Thank you to Fr. Bob and to all who helped make the celebration in honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe a success. So many parishioners and visitors thanked us for the beautiful mass. As Fr. Bob mentioned, we are a universal church. We are not just Woodhaven but from around the world with rich traditions whose shoulders we stand on.

Gracias al P. Bob y a todos los que ayudaron a que la celebración en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe fuera un éxito. Tantos feligreses y visitantes nos agradecieron por la hermosa misa. Como mencionó el P. Bob, somos una iglesia universal. No solo Woodhaven, sino de todo el mundo con ricas tradiciones sobre cuyos hombros estamos parados.

Rosa Curry

**On behalf of the Knights of Columbus, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!!**

**Why don't you join us and grow as Christian man, father, brother, or son?**

**Rise up and answer the call!**



**Free Gift!**



**SCAN ME**



## What would your answer be?

A friend's adult child asked, "Why should I have remained Catholic?" The friend, a Catholic all his life, educated in Catholic schools, and a regular church goer, even through his college years, said "I couldn't give him a defensible answer."



*If you feel you couldn't give a "defensible answer"*

Join us at *the Reconsider Workshop*  
Coming to OLOW January, 2022

### What is "The Reconsider Workshop?"

The Reconsider Workshop is a gathering of people engaged in learning the best Tips, Tools and Strategies to use in helping a Loved One "Reconsider" their position on God, Faith and the Catholic Church.

Participants will engage in video teachings, small group discussions and other activities to develop a "Reconsider Game Plan" for their particular Love One. This game plan equips the participant to mentor their Loved One with objective Catholic Church teachings that rationalize the issues that have become the obstacles to practicing their Catholic Faith.

Join us at the Reconsider Workshop coming in January, 2022 if you have a Loved One you feel is worth your time and effort. Watch the bulletin, our website and our social media platforms for further information.

### The Reconsider Workshop Prayer Request

CAN WE PRAY FOR YOUR LOVED ONE'S  
RETURN TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH? - THE  
RECONSIDER WORKSHOP

Loved One's First Name:

(Drop this prayer request in the "Praying for Their Return" box in the gathering area of the church)

### The Reconsider Workshop Registration Form



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Y N

(Mark your choice):  Tuesday Morning  Wednesday Evening  
 I will  I will not attend the welcome dinner on January 12, 2022

Tell us about your Loved One:

Child  Other Relative  Friend?  
 Teen,  Young Adult  Adult  Senior?

How long have they been not fully practicing? \_\_\_\_\_

Are they practicing elsewhere?  Y  N  Not Sure

*Fold and drop this registration form in the "Praying for Their Return" box in the gathering area of the Church*

## Parish Finance Council Update

*Submitted by: Jerry LeBoeuf, Finance Council Chairman*

Jim Strachan has announced his retirement/completion of his 3 year term on our Parish Finance Council effective Dec 31 this year. Jim's contributions to the FC have been many & insightful based on his broad business experience & parish knowledge. We will miss that valuable input to the team. As a parting contribution to OLOW, Jim recruited his own replacement to the FC. After completing a short interview process, Dan Gdowski has been welcomed to your Finance Council effective November 2021. Thank You Jim for your service and Thank You Dan for accepting the invitation to serve your parish.



### Thank You for Supporting the Giving Tree

Through your generosity, more than **550** gifts, gift cards, and essential items were collected for this year's Giving Tree.

## WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

### Question:

I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

### Answer:

If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back.

This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.

## LIVE THE LITURGY

Merry Christmas! There is something sacred about sun when it dances upon a field of newly iced snow. Lights and colors bounce around in myriad ways flashing prisms of beauty as if in tune with the rhythm of a melodic dance. The Word became flesh and now dwells among us. Humanity can now dance. We sparkle with the beauty and radiance of God and can now walk through life with confidence knowing that we have been divinely kissed. It is a sacred moment, a holy marriage between God and His sons and daughters. All is bright and all is well. Today we celebrate who we are in Christ and rest safely in God's care. God's presence, revealed in the humble birth of His Son, dances in our hearts, calling us to beauty, truth, purpose, and love. Today we know, without doubt, that we are not the product of the rambling offerings of a universe that created itself. We are loved, treasured, and blessed. We have a Savior who can show us the way. Accept him.

### Give your Preschool or Kindergarten child the gift of Faith

This year Our Lady of the Woods was blessed with the addition of a Religious Formation Program for preschool and kindergarten children that faithfully complements our existing Children's Liturgy and Grades 1 through 8 Faith Formation program.

Most preschool and kindergarten children have very little or no ability to read. However the children are able to receive the doctrine message through the use of hands-on models made for small hands. Children journey through the life of Jesus and life in the Church by experiencing Scripture and the Liturgy through the sense of touch that awakens wonder and eventually the realization of the relationship that children already have with God. These little models and sensorial materials are gathered in a prepared environment called the Atrium. This method of religious education has been in use for over 50 years and is known as the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd which is founded on the Montessori method of education. To help foster family support, the children take home a weekly Parents' Guide. It is a brief information sheet in an Encounter, Grow, Witness format that summarizes the presentation(s) the child experienced that day.

This school year Our Lady of the Woods is offering the start of a second session that will begin on Monday, January 10, 2022 through May 2, 2022. Sessions are from 4:30 pm until 6:00 pm. All children, ages 4 and 5, in the Family of Parishes and the Downriver Area are welcomed. For registration please call the Religious Education office at 734-671-5101 Joanne Petri ext. 110 or Claudette Wagner ext. 106

There is no greater gift you can give your child than a life-long relationship with Christ!





## 2021-2022 THEME: “AMAZEMENT-GLORY-AWE!”

### Adult Faith Formation—2021/2022

#### ADULT FAITH FORMATION TEAM:

The OLOW Adult Faith Formation Team consists of Pat Butler, Fr. Bob Johnson, SVD, Cynthia Keleman, Thom Shanaver, and Claudette Wagner.

#### STRUCTURE:

Adult Faith Formation centers around THREE FAITH SURGE MOMENTS on our parish calendar within the academic year of 2021-2022. These Moments will be: October through November, 2021; January through Ash Wednesday; and Easter through the end of May.

#### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS YEAR’S ADULT FAITH FORMATION: LUKE 5: 26

“Amazement seized all of them, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, “We have seen strange things today.”

#### WHY DO WE NEED THEM IN OUR PARISH?

The Church and its adult faithful have a mission in and to the world: to share the message of Christ to renew and to transform the social and temporal order. This dual calling to evangelization and justice is integral to the identity of the lay faithful; all are called to it in baptism. Accordingly, faith formation seeks to help each adult believer become “more willing and able to be a Christian disciple in the world.” As salt of the earth and light for the world (cf. Mt 5:13-16), adult disciples give witness to God’s love and caring will so that, in the power of the Spirit, they renew the face of the earth.—excerpted from *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us: A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States*

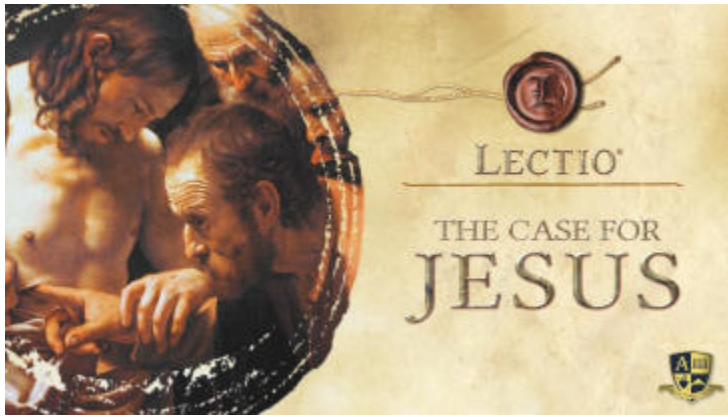
#### WHY ME?

“Evangelizing is the Church’s mission. It is not the mission of only a few, but it is mine, yours and ours... We must all be evangelizers, especially with our life!” (Pope Francis, May 22, 2013) Thus, the role of adults in the evangelizing mission of the church is critical. As Catholics we are called to respond to this mission. However, to fulfill it, most of us need to renew and deepen our understanding or our faith. Through formation, we acquire the knowledge and the confidence to fulfill the Church’s mission. (Paulina Espinosa, Director of the Office of Evangelization and Adult Faith Formation, Diocese of San Bernardino, CA)

#### SECOND FAITH SURGE MOMENT OFFERINGS (JANUARY—MARCH, 2022)

- \*The RECONSIDER Workshop (led by Thom Shanaver and team) - Helping your non-practicing Catholic child, and/or loved one, reconsider their position on God, Faith and the Catholic Church. Tuesday mornings 10am to Noon and Wednesday evenings 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the Social Hall.
- \*Lectio: The Case for Jesus – with Ms. Claudette Wagner: Lunch Session 12:05pm to 12:55 pm (Venue: TBA) / Evening Session 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm (7th/8th Grade Classroom) Wednesdays, January 5 - March 2. Can we trust the Gospels? Do we really know who wrote them? Do the Gospels communicate truth – or fabricated fables? Who is Jesus? Who did Jesus claim to be? Join Dr. Brant Pitre as he draws evidence from both early Christian and non-Christian writings attesting to the authenticity, authorship, and dating of the Gospels, and as he gives an in-depth look at the Gospel accounts of Jesus’s Crucifixion, Resurrection, and the proclamation of Christ’s divinity.
- \*“THE ANIMA SERIES: KENOSIS – FILM TWO” February 11th at 2 pm AND A REPRISE at 6 pm in the Social Hall. Led by Fr. Bob. Part Two Kenosis comes from a Greek word that means “emptying.” In this session, we are introduced to the Person of Jesus, who emptied himself to become human in the Incarnation. Bishop Hying explains how the Incarnation is God’s answer to our longing for a “God with skin on,” a God who is near and intimate with our human experience. Jesus invites us to imitate this gift by allowing our own suffering to open our hearts to greater compassion and mercy for others. Series Register by emailing Fr. Bob at [frbob@olow.org](mailto:frbob@olow.org)
- \*“UNPACK YOUR SACK” with Cynthia Keleman Lunch Session at 12 noon (Social Hall) / Evening Session at 6 pm (Social Hall) February 23rd, 2022 How much does your life weigh? We are all carrying backpacks that we continually load up, that we keep filling up until you can’t zip them up anymore and unresolved emotions that often show up in unexpressed feelings of hurt that overflow and reflect in our behaviors. Our relationships are the heaviest components in our lives, be it problems from childhood and /or with family, work and social life issues. You do not need to carry all that emotional weight! Let’s find a way to set that backpack down, thoughtfully and prayerfully review its contents to help dispose of what no longer works and lighten your load! Turn your wounds into wisdom!
- \*“DISCOVERING THE MASS PART ONE” (reprise) with Pat Butler: March 19 and 20 after the Masses in Church. A short History of the Mass will be presented and then a discussion of all the sacred items used at Mass such as the vestments and vessels. Length approximately 30 minutes.
- \*DISCOVERING THE MASS PART TWO (reprise) with Pat Butler: March 26 and 27 after the Masses in Church. Going through the Mass itself explaining why we do what we do and when we do it. Length approximately 30 minutes.





Although we are not even in the Christmas Season, yet, our Adult Faith Formation will begin soon. **Lectio – A Case for Jesus** will begin the second Wednesday of January.

*Have you ever asked yourself:*

*Can we trust the Gospels?*

*Do we really know who wrote them?*

*Do the Gospels communicate truth – or fabricated fables?*

*Who is Jesus?*

*Who did Jesus claim to be?*

*Join us as we listen to Dr. Brant Pitre drawing evidence from both early Christian and non-Christian writings attesting to the authenticity, authorship, and dating of the Gospels, and as he gives an in-depth look at the Gospel accounts of Jesus's Crucifixion, Resurrection, and the proclamation of Christ's divinity.*

The 9 session series will take us into the first two weeks of Lent. Depending on registrations we plan to have both an afternoon online session (12:05 – 12:55 pm) and an evening on site session (6:30 – 7:30 pm) on Wednesdays.

Session Dates are January 12, 19 & 26; February 2, 9, 16 & 23; and March 9 & 16.

I am looking forward to sharing God's Word with you so please register with Claudette Wagner by Phone 734-671-5101 ext 106 or Email [cwagner@olow.org](mailto:cwagner@olow.org) to ensure we have enough materials ordered.

## Reflections On Scripture

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

The prophet Isaiah offered a song of praise in seeing the Lord's return and the salvation of his people. How will you celebrate today the birth of the Messiah?

### NEW TESTAMENT READING

The opening prologue of the Letter to the Hebrews is similar in poetic structure and theology to the prologue of the Gospel of John (today's Gospel reading). Both texts place heavy emphasis on the divinity of Jesus. In the birth of Jesus where do you see his divinity present?

### GOSPEL READING

"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-abandon 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.

**Our Lady of the Woods Catholic Church**

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[www.olow.org](http://www.olow.org) | [www.facebook.com/olowchurch](https://www.facebook.com/olowchurch)

**Parish Front Desk / Sacramental Records**

Rebecca ("Becky") Gonzalez..... 734-671-5101 x100  
 ..... rgonzalez@olow.org

**Family of Parishes Administrator**

Father Bob Johnson, SVD..... 734-671-5101 x107  
 ..... frbob@olow.org

**Director of Religious Education**

Claudette Wagner..... 734-671-5101 x106  
 ..... cwagner@olow.org

**Religious Education Secretary**

Joanne Petri..... 734-671-5101 x110  
 ..... jpetri@olow.org

**Music Ministry**

Bob Amore ..... 734-671-5101 x103  
 ..... ramore@olow.org

**Parish Bookkeeper**

Patty Baringer ..... 734-671-5101 x104  
 ..... pbaringer@olow.org

**Worship / Media Coordinator**

Jason Buckley..... 734-671-5101 x105  
 ..... jbuckley@olow.org

**RCIA Coordinator**

Pat Butler ..... 734-671-5101 x108  
 ..... pbutler@olow.org

**Children's Liturgy of the Word/Acolyte Coordinator**

Jeanie Morgan-Lambrix..... 734-671-5101 x113  
 ..... jlambrix@olow.org

**Christian Service Coordinator**

Sue Perry ..... 734-671-5101 x101  
 ..... sperry@olow.org

**Maintenance**

Don VanAssche & Paul Nagle 734-671-5101 x111  
 (available on Tuesday's & Thursday's)  
 Vito Scalise, Custodian

**Bulletin Information**

Requests to have information put in the parish bulletin must be sent to [bulletin@olow.org](mailto:bulletin@olow.org) one week prior to publication and are subject to review and/or modification.

**Hours, Mass, Sacraments, & Other Contacts****Parish Office Hours (temporarily closed)**

Monday-Friday..... 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
 (Closed for lunch from 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM)

**Weekend Liturgies**

Saturday ..... 4:00 PM  
 Sunday ..... 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

**Weekday Liturgies**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday ..... 9:00 AM

**Private Confession**

Saturday..... 3:00 - 4:00 PM or by appointment

**Baptisms**

(Registered, Active Parishioner for at least 3 months)

Call Fr. Bob for details and to set up an appointment.

**Weddings**

(Registered, Active Parishioner for at least 6 months)

One member of the engaged couple must be a participating, registered member of OLOW before wedding date. Call the office during business hours to make an appointment.

**Funerals**

Family members should contact the Parish Office at 734-671-5101 x107.

**Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharistic Coordinator**

Kody Klindt..... kklindt@outlook.com

**Homebound Ministries Coordinator**

Kathy LeBoeuf..... 734-778-0971

**Preschool & Kindergarten Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Religious Ed**

Rose Shanaver..... medelshanaver@aol.com

**Ushers**

Sean Pigott..... seanp777@icloud.com

**Our Lady's Catholic Women**

Gretchen Laudner..... laudner@att.net

**Youth Ministry**

Cassie McDuff ..... OLOWYouthMinistry@gmail.com

**Parish Pastoral Council Members**

Fr. Bob, Al Cotto\*—Chairperson, Thomas Nonnenmacher—Vice Chairperson, Heather Klindt\*—Parish Council Secretary, Binnie Traill—Vicariate Representative, John Barkley, Peter Caldwell, & Daniel Hyman

**Parish Finance Council Members**

Fr. Bob, Jerry LeBoeuf\*—President, Julius D'sa, Jim Strachan, Troy Feldpausch\*, & Dan Gdowski  
 \* = denotes Family of Parishes representative



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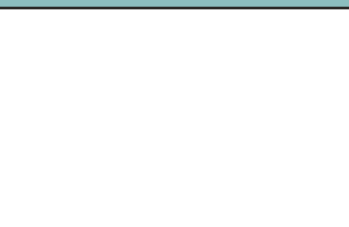
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