

Our Lady Star of the Sea
Second Sunday in Advent
December 4, 2016
Announced Masses

Saturday, December 3

- 4:00PM** Deceased Members of the Thaler & Matzelle Families
5:30PM Patricia Balestrieri & the Deceased Members of the Balestrieri Family

Sunday, December 4

- 8:00AM** Peter Rudden
9:15AM Deceased Members of the Healy & Ennis Families
10:30AM Julie & Frank Bortle
John & Cecelia Smith
12 Noon Joseph Ennis
1:15PM Rosemarie Capozzalo
7:00PM Kelvin Voyeau

Monday, December 5

- 9:00AM** Rita Gallina

Tuesday, December 6

- 9:00 AM** Lee Leyton, Karen Leyton & Charles Kohm, Sr.

Wednesday, December 7

- 9:00AM** Bobby Kunz
7:00PM Chet Schaffer

Thursday, December 8 - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 7:00AM** Louis Pioli
9:00AM Rocco & Ersilia Villani
12Noon Antonia & Rosa Circolone
8:00PM Rose Competello & Lucy DeFazio

Friday, December 9

- 9:00AM** Josephine Gentile

Saturday, December 10

- 9:00AM** Rosa Temperino
4:00PM Berta & John Matzele
5:30PM Deceased Members of the Reynolds & McSorley Families

Sunday, December 11

- 8:00AM** Lawrence Paccione
9:15AM Leon Olszewski, Edward & Jozefa Klinkosz
10:30AM Mary, Dominick & Dorothy Biscardi
12 Noon Joseph DeCandia
1:15PM Barbara Besignano
7:00PM Louis Pioli



The Sanctuary Lamp for the
Week of December 4-10
Given in Memory of
Frank Bronzo

Donated with love from the Bronzo & Chirico Families

Mass Minister Schedule

Lectors – Saturday, December 10

- 4:00PM** E Vitiello
5:30PM C Losi

Eucharistic Ministers, December 10

- 4:00PM** V Caruso, C Biondolillo, J Coscia, A Lazzara, C Barone & C Harris
5:30PM A Dazio, A Pompei, V Aciri, F Ruggiero & M Andreola

Lectors – Sunday, December 11

- 8:00AM** L Bauer
9:15AM R LaMonica
10:30AM M Pinto
12 Noon M Newell
1:15 PM MA Higgins
7:00 PM G LaGrua

Eucharistic Ministers, December 11

- 8:00AM** R Bauer, M Ennis, P Zoltowski, M Molinini, & A Sparandera
9:15AM D Avena, J Gatto, S Hitchcock, L Appel, & G Decker
10:30AM B Barone, C&J Gerace, C Ordy, T Strange, & M Haran
12 Noon S Catalano, E&G Riozzi, B Nicholson, & J Prato
1:15PM B Higgins, A McCoy, J Tolento, F&R Marino
7:00PM K Melka, J Limeri, M Recanatini, M Sprague, & G LaGrua

Altar Servers, Saturday, December 10

- 4:00PM** D Cavicchio, K Marchisella, D Heidel
5:30PM R&C Nicholaou

Altar Servers, Sunday, December 11

- 8:00AM** N Shirazi
9:15AM G&S Artz
10:30AM P Marone, F&A Aurti
12 Noon B&M Stackhouse
1:15PM
7:00PM R Faljean & E Tedesco

Sincere Condolences

✠ The Parish Family of Our Lady Star of the Sea offer our sincere condolences to the families of:

Olga Caristo, Francine Trupiano, Paul W. Cheuvront, Angelina Consolmagno, Dominick Zizzamia, Sr. Jean Wagner, PBVM

OLSS Lessons & Carols



Our annual tradition, "A Festival of Advent Lessons & Carols" will be held on **Friday, Dec. 16 at 8 pm** in the church. Please join us for an uplifting evening of scripture and song. Refreshments to follow in O'Mara Hall. We look forward to a wonderful evening filled with the spirit of the season shared with good friends.

**Holy Day of Obligation
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Mass times for the Holy Day will be:

Wednesday, December 7 – 7 pm (Vigil)
Thursday, December 8 – 7 am, 9 am,
12 NOON & 8 PM

OLSS 4th Annual Christmas Fair

Saturday, December 3 from 3 pm to 7 pm
& Sunday, December 4 from 9 am to 5 pm in O'Mara Hall
Sponsored by the OLSS Parents' Association



Pastor's Letter

Dear Parish Family,

Welcome to Christmas Memorial Tree Lighting weekend. Although we are in the holy season of Advent, we prepare for the Lord's coming by inviting the community to rejoice in the gift of light. What a witness, all throughout the Advent and Christmas Season! The tree reminds us that from the wood of the manger to the wood of the Cross, Jesus came into the world, poor, humble and He came especially to give us a share in His Light. We are summoned and sent as a people of faith to help spread His love and life to all we meet. Our beloved friends and relatives who we miss terribly, surround the Church, as they surround our altar each time we offer Mass, praising God with fully glory. It is certainly with a tear and a smile that we thank God for their presence in our lives. I once heard a pastor beautiful declare at a funeral Mass that our brother is no longer where he once was, but he is present to us now wherever we are. May our dearly beloved behold God face to face in heaven!

This past week has been a week of sadness and loss especially for two very wonderful and holy women, who were called home to God; Marie Cancelleri and Sister Jean Wagner, PBVM. Just before Thanksgiving Marie was in rehabilitation, with the goal of getting her to walk and return home. Her passing so peacefully into the arms of God was an unexpected shock, especially to family. Marie lived the Gospel in multiple and varied ways, as a mother, grandmother, and as a volunteer in our parish and school for over 45 years. She also worked in the school for nearly 20 years. Marie was truly the face of Our Lady Star of the Sea School to countless number of children and parents who passed through the school each day. Her gentleness and smile helped direct many people young and old to where they needed to be. She extended herself as well to the cadre of women who count our collection. Always faithful and present to that ministry and also singing in our parish choir. Very often we enter into a church and admire the light, statues, paintings, flowers, sanctuary space and all the refinement of liturgical architecture, but seldom is attention played to the floor. The floor is the ground and foundation on which the church stands. So too is Marie Cancelleri. She may have gone unnoticed by 90%, but she was part of the parish bedrock, a pillar of Christ's peace and love that helped Our Lady Star of the Sea Church become outstanding. We will all miss her tremendously. I join with the whole parish in extending, especially to Debbie Emigholz, our deepest prayers and condolences. It was a moving tribute of faith and love to see many priests return to honor her memory, especially Monsignor Donald Dwyer, Monsignor Jeff Conway, Father Brian McWeeney and our own priests. I don't know how the choir and Geri D'Amato were able to sing at all but they did so sweetly. I want to thank Mike Sekzer and Brittany Stetson for outstanding voices as they sang Bocelli's "The Prayer."

It's has been an especially emotional time for me. Sister Jean Wagner, PBVM went into the loving embrace of Jesus early on Sunday morning after a horrific two weeks in the hospital. Her cancer spread, her need to be on a respirator impeded her voice, but her faith was towering through it all. Sister Jean was 63 years a religious woman. She came to Staten Island in 1953 and entered the convent of the Presentation Sisters of Staten Island. In her full habited, early years she was known as Sister Alacoque. She taught, directed religious education, counseled, taught special education, became a pastoral associate and minister of consolation and bereavement, and devoted her greatest joyful time with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, and was a member of several Charismatic Prayer groups and a regular core team prayer for all our healing services and Mass. She was fondly remembered Saint Margaret Mary School, then several other schools, Saint Clare, Assumption, Saint Sylvester, Saint John the Baptist De La Salle, Saint Charles, Holy Child, Our Lady of Pity and finally us.

You could sense the spark of excitement when she researched and choose to begin the Renew Faith Sharing course on the Gospel of Saint Luke. This will resume and be completed in her memory.

I met Sister Jean through her brother, Joe Wagner, who as a fellow seminarian in 1970. I had been in her family home on Grace Avenue in the Wakefield section of the Bronx. Little did I realize back then that I would have a deep friendship lasting 46 years. The lyrics of one of my favorite hymns of praise sums up these 46 years well. "Friends are friends forever, if the Lord is the Lord of them. A friend will not say never, for the welcome will not end. Though it's hard to let you go. In the Father's hands we know, that a lifetime is not too long to live as friends."

Her "Nunc Dimittis" (Now Master, let your servant go in peace) was when she heard Father David preach about having a deep abiding relationship with Jesus, this comes first and must be established well for without this all our catechesis and study in the faith is in vain. Those words struck a chord in Sister Jean, and she was thrilled it was mentioned. If we get that message, then her life as a religious woman of faith was not lived in vain.

I am delighted that so many people paused to remember this giant of faith on Staten Island. So as we continue our Advent journey, the light doesn't dim, we are climbing that holy mountain preparing for the dawn without darkness, a new day in the Lord. With Marie and Jean as our heavenly intercessors, I am expecting great graces in the days ahead.

God Bless,

Fr. Tom Devery



Banns of Marriage

Second Time: Joseph Galante & Jacquelyn Reddy
Third Time: Ferdinando Occhiuto, Jr. & Gina Dorilio

Wedding Music Workshop

The next **Wedding Music Workshop** will be on **Sunday, February 26** immediately following the 7 pm Mass. OLSS Brides & Grooms may select their wedding music at this time.

Giving Baskets

As in the past, this Christmas, we will be helping those in need on Staten Island, by responding to our parishioners & local organizations serving their various needs. This weekend our Giving Baskets will be in the rear of the Church. Please select one or more tags, purchase the items and wrap them. If you pick a tag and find you cannot purchase that gift, please return the tag. All gifts must be new. Original tag must be taped on the package, face up, when returning it. If you have a new item that you would like to donate, just make your own tag, noting the contents of the gift. For example, "Boys Large sweatshirt" and tape it to the gift. If you have volunteered to help with this project in the past or if you would like to join our volunteers this year, please call Donna Ferreri, the organization's coordinator, at 646-932-3030, and leave your name and number. Tags for gift cards for families in need in our parish are needed as well. Please indicate the amount of the gift card on the tag so that we know the value when distributing them. **PLEASE RETURN GIFTS NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 10 & 11 SO THAT WE CAN DISTRIBUTE THEM IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS. God bless you for your generosity during this Advent Season!**



Group Meetings

50 Plus Club –The next meeting will be **Friday, December 9 from 1-3 pm** in the Damato Meeting Room of the OLSS Athletic Center. For more information, call Terry at 718-317-1801.

Bereavement Group – Bereavement meetings will resume in January.

Book Club - The next meeting of the OLSS book club will be **Thursday, January 5 at 7:30 PM** in the Rectory. New members are always welcome. We will continue our next selection which is *Winning The Battle Against Sin- Hope Filled Lessons From The Bible* by Fr. Mitch Pacwa, SJ (The Word Among Us Press). For more info, please contact Kathy Melka at 917-696-7081.

Holy Name Society – The next meeting for the Holy Name Society will be on **Wednesday, December 7 at 8 pm** in the Damato Mtg Room of the OLSS Athletic Center. For more info, call Robert Cermeli at 917-783-6494 or Peter Cappellino at 917-626-7757.

Prayer Group – Group meets on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7:30p.m. in the Rectory.

OLSS Baptism Preparation Policy



Please reference the front bulletin cover for details on the Baptism Preparation Policy. All parish families preparing for the Baptism of their child must attend the OLSS Baptismal Class. Please contact the Rectory Mon-Fri 9-4:30 to obtain a Baptism Registration Packet.

Baptismal Class & Ceremony Dates

December 11, January 8 & 22

PLEASE NOTE: Baptism Classes take place at 12 Noon in the Damato Meeting Room of the Athletic Center. Baptism Ceremonies take place at 2:15 PM in the Church.

Advent Candles Memorialized



The Advent Candles, which are on our Advent Wreath, have been memorialized by the Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors who serve at the 8AM Mass.

OLSS SCHOOL NEWS



• Our annual toy drive for Amazing Grace Ministries takes place this **Wednesday, December 7**. Please send in a new, unwrapped toy with your child in the morning. Pre-K3 students can bring in their donation on Tuesday.

• The American Institute of Architects held their annual Spaghetti and Marshmallow Contest last month for Staten Island students. We are proud to announce that **Michael Sperantzas**, of 7th grade, was the Grand Prize Winner for his Tower of Power building. **Congratulations, Michael!**

• Please stop by O'Mara Hall after mass today and do some shopping at our Parents' Association Holiday Fair!

OLSS INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL REGISTRATION

Registration for boys and girls in grades K-8 will be **Wednesdays 12/7 & 12/14** from 7-9pm in the Athletic Center. Fee is \$100 for the season. Forms can be downloaded at www.olssbasketball.com. For more info, go to olssbasketball.com and click the "contact us" tab.

VALENTINE'S DANCE

The 8th annual OLSS SPORTS Valentine's Dance Fundraiser will take place on **Saturday Feb. 4th** from **7pm-1am** in the Athletic Center. This is an adult only event. Tickets are \$30/person and includes a catered buffet, DJ, photo booth, door prizes, raffles and more! Tables of 10 or more can be made, or we can add you to any table. Help support the sports program! For more info, contact Kris Zieris at 917-499-3942.

Pray for the Sick



Barbara Allen, Baby Noah, Norma Bolanos, Vincenza Caccano, Serafina Carlone, Patsy Cassano, Angela Chinchilla, Ethyl Cohen, David Colon, Nanette Colon, Marion Concadora, Morgan Coop, Rafaella Cosenstino, Vincenzo Dama, Liseth Dixon, Jeanette Dovile, Michael Durante, Zenia Enciso, Barbara Foresti, Thomas Paul Gaither, Antoinette Gallo, Herbert Gruberger, Baby Joseph Hale, Matthew Hall, Scott Herman, Thomas Lamantia, Thomas Lanza, Lelle Lazanek, Cecelia Leo, Saydi Leon, Anne Merlino, Iok Kuan Lei Ng, Ralph Pagliuca, Joseph Pavio, Ann Marie Pederson, Sue Perinuzzi, Camille Polly, Rochelle & Joe Puglisi, Eva Ragona, John & Carmine Ragona, Ivan Rodriguez, Caesar Russo, Lucrecia Santos, Jamie Seaman, Celeste Setty, Donna Slavin, Margaret Smith, Trevor Spataro, Sharon Thomas, Dora Valiente, Lisa & Dustin Vasquez, Thomas Vecchi, Louis Vitale, **Please Note: Parish priests and Eucharistic ministers regularly visit those who are ill or homebound. Please call the Rectory to have a name added to the sick list or to arrange for home visits.**

Healing Mass

There will be a Healing Mass on **Tues, December 6** at 7:30 p.m. Anyone in need of spiritual, emotional, or physical healing is welcome. *(The next Healing Service will be Dec. 20 @ 3:30 pm.)*

RCIA - Come Experience God's Love

Would you like to explore the Catholic Church and the faith of Catholic Christianity? Are you interested in becoming a full member of the Catholic Church? Were you baptized Catholic as a child, but have not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist? If so, then RCIA is for you. RCIA is a journey of exploration and initiation into the Catholic Church. RCIA is a fun, safe, faith-building discovery of Jesus Christ and the Church he loves. RCIA will change your life. It will bring you closer to Jesus. The Catholic Church welcomes you. For information please contact Joe Limeri – jlimeri@aol.com – 347-541-9757 or call the Rectory.

Our Lady Star of the Sea

Star Players

(formerly CYO Players)

present

Reason for the Season



in

OLSS O'Mara Hall

Show Dates & Times

Friday, December 9 - 7:30pm
Saturday, December 10 - 1:00pm
Saturday, December 10 - 7:30pm
Sunday, December 11 - 2:00pm

Tickets

\$15 per person at the door
or call Maryann at 917-817-7463
to reserve in advance.

Directed by: Melissa Kane & Nicole Colonna
Assistant Directors: Stephanie Langella & Dana Cavello
Musical Director: Rob Butler
Choreographers: Marie Causi & Therese Causi



Cluster Corner



Cluster Parish Mass Times

Our Lady Help of Christians - 7396 Amboy Rd.
Sat. 4:30 PM; Sun. 8 AM, 10 AM (Family Mass), 12 PM,
4 PM (Spanish Mass) & 6:30 PM
Weekday Masses Mon. thru Sat. 9 AM
St. John Neumann - 1380 Arthur Kill Rd.
Sat. 5 PM; Sun. 8 AM, 9:30 AM, 11 AM and 12:30 PM
Weekday Masses Mon. thru Sat. 9 AM in Rectory Chapel
St. Thomas the Apostle - 6123 Amboy Rd.
Sat. 6 PM, Sun. 9 AM, 10 AM (Italian), 11 AM, 1 PM, & 6 PM
Weekday Masses Mon. thru Fri. 7 & 8 AM, Sat. 8 AM
Church of St. Joseph - 16 Poplar Ave.
Sat. 5 PM; Sun. 8 AM, 10 AM, & 12 PM
Weekday Masses Mon. thru Sat. 9 AM

✓ Mark Your Calendar

Meditation Monday at St. Joseph Retreat Center December 12th from 7:30-9:00 PM

An invitation for you to be refreshed, renewed and restored. It's an evening to kick back, relax and let go of stress. The evening consists of faith sharing, reflection and prayer ending with coffee and dessert. Fee: \$10 per session. (This is a monthly Event taking place on the second Monday of the month. Attendees do not need to attend all sessions.) Facilitated by Grace Daquila. St. Joseph Retreat center is located at St. Joseph Hill Convent, 850 Hylan Blvd., SINY 10305. For more info, call 718-720-1097 or visit www.sjretreatcenter.org.

BUS TRIP TO SAND'S CASINO

The Stolzenhaller Council of K of C is sponsoring a trip to Sand's Casino in Bethlehem, PA on **Tuesday, December 13**. The cost is \$30 per person, with \$20 back in slot play and \$5 back in food. The bus will leave Stolzenhaller Council at 10:00 a.m. Call Ed Newborn @ 917-697-5603 for information & reservations.

12 Step & Community Meetings

ACOA _____ Sundays 5:30PM
AA _____ Sundays 8:15PM
_____ Mondays 10AM
_____ Tuesdays 4PM
_____ Thursdays 4PM
_____ Fridays 4PM
_____ Saturdays 7:30PM & 9PM
PILLS ANONYMOUS _____ Tuesdays 6:30PM
_____ Fridays 6:30PM
GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS _____ Tuesdays 8:00PM
AL-ANON _____ Thursdays 5:30PM

Addiction Angels - The Sibling Support Group meeting on **Tues., December 20 at 7 pm** in the **Damato Mtg. Room**. There will be a Parent Support Group meeting on **Thurs., December 22 at 7 pm** in the **Damato Mtg. Room**. For more info, call Alicia Reddy at 646-404-0637.

12 Step Night of Reflection: Every first Thursday, there will be a dinner at 6PM, a meeting at 7:15PM and a Healing Mass at 8:30PM in O'Mara Hall/Chapel for members of 12 Step Programs. Cost: \$20. The next meeting is on **January 5**.

