

**Our Lady Star of the Sea
Christmas Day
December 25, 2016
Announced Masses**

Saturday, December 24

- 4:00PM** Joseph & Gaetano Levantino, Richard Rauch & Netta Scimecca
6:00PM Deceased Members of the Gagliardi & Castelucci Families
MIDNT John & Ella Milo

Sunday, December 25

- 7:30AM** James Motola & Stephen LoCastro
9:00AM Joseph Ennis
10:30AM Deceased Members of the Mule & Saccheri Families
12 Noon Michael Claps
1:30PM Gladys Voyeau

PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO 7 PM MASS ON 12/25

Monday, December 26

- 9:00AM** Joyce Negrete & Emilio Stuccio

Tuesday, December 27

- 9:00 AM** Anne Sheeran

Wednesday, December 28

- 9:00AM** Catherine Manetta

Thursday, December 29

- 9:00AM** Jean Merli

Friday, December 30

- 9:00AM** Vincent & Carmen Verdiglione

Saturday, December 31

- 9:00AM** Jared Dane Scott
4:00PM Cecelia Pastorelli
5:30PM Anne Rodriguez

Sunday, January 1

- 8:00AM** Lisa Stahlecker
9:15AM Eugene Isola, Jr.
10:30AM Assunta Moffa
12 Noon Giorgio Marano & Giuseppina DeRosa Marano
1:15PM Noel & Christine Boland
7:00PM Margaret Briganti



**UPCOMING
HOLIDAY RECTORY HOURS**

Sunday, 12/25/16 – Christmas Day – CLOSED
 Saturday, 12/31/16 – New Year's Eve – 9 am – 3 pm
 Sunday, 1/1/17 – New Year's Day - CLOSED

Banns of Marriage
Second Time: Anthony Agostino & Marian Cunsolo



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.

The Sanctuary Lamp for the
 Week of December 25-December 31
 Given in Memory of
Marie Cancelleri & John Emigholz, Sr.
 Donated by their loving family

Mass Minister Schedule

**Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers
Saturday, December 31 & Sunday, January 1**

Please refer to the Holiday Schedule for assignments.

Please note, we are still in need of
Eucharistic Ministers for the following Masses:

Sunday, January 1, 2017

- 8:00 AM
 9:15 AM
 10:30 AM
 12 NOON
 7 PM**

If you are able to serve as a Eucharistic Minister at any of these masses, please contact the Rectory by **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30** or identify yourself to the Sacristan **PRIOR TO** the Mass that you attend.

Altar Servers, Saturday, December 31

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

Altar Servers, Sunday, January 1

- 8:00AM** J Bell
9:15AM G&S Artz
10:30AM P Marone
12 Noon B&M Stackhouse
1:15PM N Cammarato
7:00PM E Tedesco

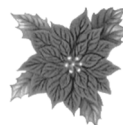


Sincere Condolences

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

Maria Felicia Roseto, Anthony DiPaola, Giuseppa Graffeo, Sandra McGivney

Christmas Flower Offering



During the Christmas Season, our church is adorned with lovely Christmas flowers. If you would like to contribute to our Christmas Flower fund, please use the envelope found in your packet of Sunday envelopes, noting the name of the loved one you would like remembered on the line provided.



Pastor's Letter

Merry Christmas Parish Family,

It's been years since Christmas fell on a Sunday and I want to wish you and your families and friends and loved ones from all of us here at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church a joyous and fruitful Christmas Season and all the blessings of 2017.

After all the food has been consumed, the presents have been opened, the joy and love of people gathered has been shared; there comes that time when someone in the crowd says, "Thank God, we made it through another year." There is a realization for many of us getting older that there are people we miss who went home to God during this past year. There are newborn infants for whom this is their first Christmas. There are squeals of delight as the right present arrived for the right child. People feel free to wish good tidings to friends and neighbors and of course there's egg nog and moose milk and a round of Bailey's to everyone. Do you have the tradition of singing Happy Birthday to the Baby Jesus? All these Christmas traditions make memories for loved ones. Of course, gathering at Christmas Mass and hearing the sound of carols sung, seeing the bright twinkling lights, garlands of wreaths with bright red bows and poinsettias, and the Christmas Nativity crib focus on the real reason for the season, the birth of our Messiah, Jesus Christ come in the flesh. Jesus came to earth to save us all.

Just as Jesus arrived in an obscure place and was surrounded with poverty and oppression, we too unite ourselves to the poor and disadvantaged and the refugees of the world. I am thinking especially of the Syrian people, and the disastrous plight of the people of Aleppo. I am feeling the cold on my face as I walk up from the rectory to the Church and pray for all the homeless in our city. Here on Staten Island I was informed that 14% of our people go to bed hungry each night and many crowd into homeless shelters such as Project Hospitality. I pray not only for the homeless but for the working poor who are just one paycheck from losing it all.

I am aware that many people will discuss the political climate of our nation after this tumultuous election and wonder what will the future be? However more now than ever, we need to trust in Jesus and respond to our call to holiness, and pray for God's gift of peace this season.

There are Herod's still in the world that rob people of freedom. The suffering of innocents can be heard in many a home even today. People struggling with sobriety, people who are addicted to drugs, alcohol, pornography, shopping or trapped in prison of anger and un-forgiveness need particularly the saving grace of Jesus, to give us life and ransom us from the culture of death.

Jesus is close to the brokenhearted. I pray especially for those suffering from cancer, depression, mental illness, broken bones, respiratory diseases, and then there are people who find themselves out of work and can't find a decent job. Lord, please show forth your kindness and new life. May this Christmas bring the light of hope into these challenges. Just as the first people to meet and greet the Savior of the World were shepherds, may angels direct those who are unfortunate to sing God's praises for God is with us, Emmanuel. Christ understands being homeless, poor, a refugee and a fugitive of Herod. Jesus is our hope.

Just a word about what will be happening soon. You may have noticed the markers on the church lawn, and the wooden frames surrounding our trees. Right after Christmas and for about four months and possibly six months, a major construction project will commence by the City of New York to widen Amboy Road up to Huguenot Avenue. This widening will take away about 16 feet of Church property and result in a turning lane on Amboy Road when completed. Some trees will be removed. The Parish sign will have to be removed and replaced. The gates for our driveways will have to be re-configured to turn inward. And separately, but equally important, will be the moving of the utility poles that will carry our electricity, Verizon and internet. We have been told from the contractors that their work will commence 9AM till 2PM, so that the arrival and dismissal of the children will be minimally effected. I will keep you posted on its progress. The project will commence right after Christmas and before the New Year.

So just like the detours, interruptions and drama of that first Christmas, so too now, we will trust in the One who makes all things new. May Christ reign in your hearts, fill you with His Light and Grace and bless you more than before.

Once Again, Merry Christmas,

Fr. Tom Devery





Our Lady Star of the Sea Christmas Mass Schedule – 2016

Saturday, December 24
4 pm, 6pm, & Midnight

Sunday, December 25
7:30 am, 9 am, 10:30 am,
12Noon, & 1:30 pm

Masses are in the Church only.
Please note that the 4 pm and 10:30 am
Masses are usually very crowded,
and parking may be difficult.

If necessary, please use
the municipal lot across from
the public library on Huguenot Ave.

Please do not use the TD Bank parking lot.



Thank you!



OLSS SCHOOL NEWS



• Merry Christmas to all of our OLSS Families!
Thank you for the kindness and thoughtfulness you
have shown us throughout this holiday season.
Have a blessed holiday season! See you all on
January 3, 2017!

SAVE THE DATES:

- Our 2nd Graders will receive their First Reconciliation on Saturday, January, 7th at 11 AM.
- Our first Touring Tuesday of the new year will be on Tuesday, January 10th from 9-11 AM.
- Re-registration for our OLSS Families will be on Tuesday, January 10th.
- Midterms for Grades 3-8 begin on January 17th.

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.



Adult Volunteer Thank You Party

**Our Annual Volunteer Party will be held in
O'Mara Hall on Friday, January 6, 2017
From 7:30 PM to 11 PM for all:**

<i>Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors</i>	<i>Altar Adult Care Committee</i>
<i>Ushers & Sacristans</i>	<i>Adult Choir</i>
<i>Boy/Cub Scouts Exec. Board</i>	<i>Soccer Executive Board</i>
<i>Contemporary Ensemble</i>	<i>50 Plus Group Officers</i>
<i>Bereavement Core Team</i>	<i>Parents' Association Board</i>
<i>Div. & Separated Core Team</i>	<i>RCIA Core Team</i>
<i>Adult Faith Formation Team</i>	<i>Food Pantry Volunteers</i>
<i>Eucharistic Adorers</i>	<i>Holy Name Exec. Board</i>
<i>OLSS Parish, School & Religious Education Faculty & Staff</i>	

Please RSVP to the Parish Office, 984-0593 by Friday, December 30th so that we are prepared with the right amount of food.



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, Raffaella Cosenstino, Vincenzo Dama, Liseth Dixon, Jeanette Dovile, Michael Durante, Zenia Enciso, Cristina Fico, Barbara Foresti, Thomas Paul Gaither, Antoinette Gallo, Herbert Gruberger, Ted Gunther, 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, Donna Torrens, 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, January 3 at 7:30 p.m.** Anyone in need of spiritual, emotional, or physical healing is welcome. *(The next Healing Service will be Jan. 17 @ 3:30 pm.)*

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

PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO BAPTISM CLASS OR CEREMONY ON DECEMBER 25, 2016.

2017 - January 8 & 22, February 12 & 26, March 12 & 26,
April 23, May 14 & 28

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.

Sponsor Certificates

Certificates attesting to the fact that an OLSS parishioner is a practicing Catholic are often required when they are asked to sponsor someone at the time of Baptism or Confirmation. These certificates may be obtained only **AFTER** the Masses on Saturday evening or Sunday. The **PERSON REQUIRING THE CERTIFICATE MUST** see the priest **AFTER ATTENDING THE MASS** to request one.

Group Meetings

50 Plus Club – The next meeting will be **Friday, January 13 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, January 4 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.

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.

✓ Mark Your Calendar

Ignatian Spirituality Session at St. Clare Parish – January 7, 2017

The next session of "Ignatian Spirituality" will be on Saturday January 7th in the Presentation Center (169 Lindenwood Rd.) at St Clare's parish. We will meet right after the Saturday 9am mass (optional) and the one-hour session will begin at 10am.

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 – Parent and sibling support groups for families battling addiction. 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**.

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

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

The Nativity of the Lord December 25, 2016

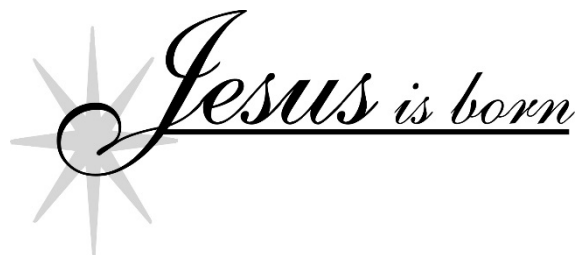
“The grace of God has appeared, offering salvation to all men. It trains us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and live temperately, justly and devoutly in this age as we await our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of the great God and of our Savior Christ Jesus... to redeem us and to cleanse for himself a people of his own...eager to do what is right.”

Why this passage from St. Paul's letter to Titus as part of our worship on this great Christmas day? It is easy for us to be so caught up in many distractions that we overlook some basic points. Do I realize that there were centuries of waiting for the Messiah and people grew weary and forgetful? Paul tells them, the savior has appeared.

If the coming of the redeemer speaks to me today, my Christmas joy reminds me that godless ways and worldly desires are not the focus. Gifts, consumerism, travel and visits are ours because the gift, Jesus, who travelled to earth and Bethlehem, placed salvation at our disposal. God did His part; we now must do ours.

He has redeemed and purified us and claims us as His. My response is eager acceptance of what He has come to offer me. As I look around, who needs to know of my experience of this redeeming savior? The books, the songs, the traditions can tell me of Him and this day. They encourage me to seek Him. Prayer is where I meet Him.

The virtues of temperance, justice and piety reflect our serious and joy filled acceptance of Jesus Christ this Christmas of 2016. May you be blessed.



**INSTRUCTIONS: This is the end of the bulletin - Sunday,
December 25, 2016**