

Our Lady Star of the Sea
Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2017
Announced Masses

Saturday, December 9

4:00PM Deceased Members of the Thaler & Matzelle Families

5:30PM Patricia Balestrieri

Sunday, December 10

8:00AM Anthony Izzi

9:30AM Deceased Members of the Healy & Ennis Families

11:00AM Julie & Frank Bortle, John & Cecilia Smith & Benedict, Viola & John Saldanha

12:30PM Deceased Members of the Marcellino, Delia & Molinari Families

7:00 PM Salvatore & Ida DeMarco

Monday, December 11

9:00AM Joseph DeCandia

Tuesday, December 12

9:00 AM John Strange & Catherine Stiehler

Wednesday, December 13

9:00AM Edward & Josefa Klinkosz

Thursday, December 14

9:00AM Amelia Newborn

Friday, December 15

9:00AM Joann Muscarella-Megala

Saturday, December 16

9:00AM Vincent & Angela DeLeonibus

4:00PM Berta & John Matzele

5:30PM Deceased Members of the Reynolds & McSorley Families

Sunday, December 17

8:00AM Peter Levantino

9:30AM Deceased Members of the Merola, Zingano & Pallante Families

11:00AM Maristella & Giuseppe Bianco

12:30PM Rosemarie Lanzarone

7:00 PM Antonio Persichilli



Banns of Marriage



3rd Time: William McGoorty & Alyssa Decker

Wedding Music Workshop

The next **Wedding Music Workshop** will be on **Sunday, February 25** immediately following the 7 pm Mass. OLSS Brides & Grooms may select their wedding music at this time.

Ladies Retreat

Day of Prayer at Loyola Jesuit Center-Morristown, NJ
Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Prepare yourself for Christmas and treat yourself! Get away for a day! This Day of Prayer is an opportunity to get a taste of the Loyola retreat experience. Days of prayer are Ignatian mini-retreats in semi-silence from 9:30 am to 3 pm and include a light breakfast and lunch, Reconciliation and Mass. The bus will leave OLSS Athletic Center at 7:30 am and will be back around 5 pm. Cost: \$70 per person cash or check made to OLSS. **NO REFUNDS.** Any questions, please contact Maria Quadrino at 917-417-5728 or maria.quadrino@gmail.com.

The Sanctuary Lamp for the
Week of December 10 – December 16
 Given in Memory of
Lucille France
 Donated by Your Loving Goddaughter

Mass Minister Schedule

Lectors – Saturday, December 16

4:00PM F Monte

5:30PM A Pompei

Eucharistic Ministers – Saturday, December 16

4:00PM C Harris, A Petrocelli, A Lazzara, G Decker & B Palomba

5:30PM A Dazio, F Barone, F Ruggiero, J Uhlman & J Cimino

Lectors – Sunday, December 17

8:00AM P Zoltowski

9:30AM MA Higgins

11:00AM C Messina

12:30PM A Deliso

7:00 PM G LaGrua

Eucharistic Ministers - Sunday, December 17

8:00AM M Quadrino, M Molinini, M Randazzo & A Sparandera

9:30AM A Shirazi, B Barone, J Gatto & M Iacono

11:00AM L Appel, E&G Riozzi, J Tolento, C Argano

12:30PM R Marino, C Belvedere, S Catalano, A McCoy & MA Russo

7:00PM E Belina, K Melka, C Barone, M Recanatini & B Weir

Altar Servers - Saturday, December 16

4:00PM D Cavicchio, J Oliveri

5:30PM E Losi, D Heidel

Altar Servers - Sunday, December 17

8:00AM N Shirazi

9:30AM S Artz

11:00AM G Gulotta, P Marone

12:30PM B&M Stackhouse

7:00PM E Tedesco



Sincere Condolences

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

Anthony Trezza, Donald Boyd

2018 Sanctuary Lamps

If you would like to dedicate a Sanctuary Lamp for a week in 2018 in memory of a deceased loved one, the book is open and the donation is \$35. There are also announced masses still available for 2018. Please come in to the Rectory to reserve a mass or Sanctuary Lamp.

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.

A Letter from the Pastor

Dear Parish Family,

This is the 2nd Sunday in Advent. The Lord is coming and in surprising ways. We announced last Sunday that Pope Francis has appointed Father Gabriel Mendy, CSSP, as the bishop of the Diocese of Banjul, Gambia. Since Gambia is a small country next to Nigeria, he will have the whole country as his diocese. I had asked Father Basil if he thought that Gambia was larger than New York State and he didn't think so. Needless to say, this is an amazing surprise and an honor. There is also a bittersweet side to this appointment too. For several years Father Gabriel would take his vacation time at Our Lady Star of the Sea and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of meeting the people and serving in a large parish. He asked me to help him obtain a parish in the Archdiocese of New York since his teaching time at the seminary in Nigeria was coming to an end. I helped him with the visa work and eventually he arrived in September to serve at Saint Christopher's Parish on Staten Island with Father Joseph Mc Lafferty for five years. God seemingly had other plans. We want to celebrate with him and we know time is short.

Bishop Elect Mendy will offer the 5:30 PM Mass this weekend and he will have one more week before he needs to return. Please keep our dear friend in your prayers.

Jaime Rickert, a member of the Parish Mission Team wrote a piece about Advent.

"As we enter the season of Advent, I'm reminded of dealing with expectations and making things new. Here's a repost of something I wrote a few years back.

BUG: I think it was the bug that did it. It flew like a hummingbird, in short, straight lines with sudden, complete stops: this last one in front of my face. It just hung there, as if suspended on a wire; its wings were like a blur as it searched me for whatever it is that bugs search for. Then, apparently disappointed, it vanished.

I had not noticed any bugs on my first trip to Israel in 1984. That time, I had come laden with thirty five years of hopes and expectations and preconceived notions of "The Holy Land", not Israel, not even Jerusalem, just 'The Holy Land'. I had come to renew my faith. Now do not get me wrong, I was in no way disappointed with my first experience. In fact, I was deeply moved. At the Western Wall of the first Temple, called "The Wailing Wall", where only the lowest course of stones remain in their original pieces. I remember the words of Jesus," not one of these stones will remain on top of another, yet my worlds will never pass away" and I was moved to tears. I was not disappointed and yet....

Back to the bug: I was playing guitar at a Mass on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. There was a pause after communion for a silent meditation. And then, there it was, hanging in the air, shining golden like sunlight. I wondered if Jesus had seen a bug like this. That was my moment. Time stopped. Everything else faded away. Two thousand years disappeared. Then, slowly, I became aware: first of the sounds, the rustling whisper of the wind blowing through the trees, the gentle rippling of the water against the rocky shore, the soft bright chatter of the birds in the trees. A tall white bird walked slowly through the gentle waving reeds by the shore. The glass clear water deepened to blue as the small cove opened out into the Sea of Galilee. I saw the mottled browns and greens of the opposite shore rise to the gray rocky Golan Heights with the sea blue sky and soft white clouds floating above. Warm dry air with a faintly cool breeze on my face completed the moment. It was beautiful. Not because Jesus had been there. Not because it was a "holy place", but because the place itself was holy. God was here: it was beautiful. No wonder Jesus had come here to rest with his friends. And not a sight nor a sound had changed in over two thousand years. The spirit of the place was the same for us as it had been for Him. In fully experiencing the moment, I had found Jesus.

I spend much of my life finding only what I expect to find in people, in places and even in myself. With God's grace, may we all let go of our limits and find what God has hidden in the living now: right in front of our eyes."

O Come Emmanuel, reveal yourself to us in the here and now. God's Blessings.

Fr. Tom Devery

Giving Baskets

Gifts are due THIS weekend so that we can distribute them in time for Christmas!



God bless you for your generosity during this Advent Season!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT OLSS

Altar Server Meeting

There will be an altar server meeting for all altar servers on **Saturday, December 16 @ 12 Noon** in the Church. All altar servers should attend with parents. Christmas sign in sheets will be at this meeting. Please be available for at least 1 hour.

Come receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Advent Season!

Monday, December 18, 4-8 PM



Monday, December 18th has been designated "Advent Reconciliation Monday" in the Archdiocese of New York. All parishes in the Archdiocese will be open for the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 4 pm to 8 pm. You may go to any parish during this time. Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to receive the Sacrament during this Advent Season! Confessions are also heard here at OLSS every Saturday from 3:30 to 5:30 pm.

Lessons & Carols

Please note: the Lessons & Carols originally scheduled for Friday, December 15 has been cancelled.

RCIA – Rite of Acceptance

We will celebrate the RCIA Rite of Acceptance at the 11 am Mass this weekend for 6 of our RCIA Inquirers.

The Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens welcomes those who are preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist: **Lauren Alvarez, James Keeler, Danielle King, Brenda Koenig, Sarah Smith, and Danielle Yurisov.**

This rite starts at the entranceway of the Church as these Inquirers cross over into their new way of life as Catechumens. They are signed with the cross of Christ by their sponsors and affirm their intention to live under Christ's cross. Their formation begins as the Word we hear proclaimed each week in our assembly is presented to them. Our congregation plays an important role in this celebration as we welcome these men and women into our midst and share our faith with them. Please remember to keep them in your daily prayers.

For more information on the RCIA program, please contact Joe Limeri – jlimeri@aol.com – 347-541-9757 or call the Parish Office.



OLSS 5th Annual Christmas Fair

Saturday, December 9 - 3 to 7 pm

&

Sunday, December 10 - 9 am to 5 pm

In OLSS O'Mara Hall

Sponsored by the OLSS Parents' Association



OLSS SCHOOL NEWS



• **Thank you!** Our Adopt-a-Senior and Toy Drives were an amazing success! Your response to both causes was overwhelming. There will be lots of grateful people thanks to your generosity!

- Good luck to Ashley Tirado and Joseph Sorrentino who will compete this week in the Staten Island wide Spelling Bee!
- Our third grade Christmas Pageant is Wednesday, December 13. The performance for parents is at 1 pm.
- The Toy Shoppe will be open on Friday, December 15th for our OLSS children to get their Christmas shopping done.

Pray for the Sick



James Accardi, Barbara Allen, Jean Allen, Robert Augustino, Christopher Balk, Robert Bauer, Catherine Biondillo, Sarah Brodine, Mary Ann, Thomas & Yelena Casale, Christine C., Alfred Canteruccio, Serafina Carlone, Anne Casconi, Mario Clemente, Ethel Cohen, David Colon, Joanne Colon, Nanette Colon, Marion Concodora, Lou Correard, Brielle Cunningham, Lisa Cunningham, Russell Cunningham, Juanita Curran, Dominick D'Argenio, John Dawidowicz, John DeLuca, Jeanette Dovile, Chelsea Dutton, Barbara Foresti, Patricia Franzeb, Thomas Paul Gaither, Herbert Gruberger, Thomas Lanza, Dolores Lucardi, William Massi, Anne Merlino, Baby Dean Michael, Lily Moncado, Bea Nicholson, Robert O'Connor, Ann Marie Pederson, Camille Polly, Betty Popick, Joe Puglisi, Rochelle Puglisi, Stephen Puglisi, Deanna R., John Ragona, Carmen Ragona, Eva Ragona, Linda & Vincent Ranallo, Caesar Russo, Baby Vincent Salatino, Alex Sepiol, Celeste Setty, Margaret Smith, Eleanor Spaguolo, Robert Stranberg Sr., Michelle Surreys, Dustan Vasquez, Lisa Vasquez, Sarah Weathers **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 Service

There will be a Healing Service on **Tuesday, December 19 at 3:30 pm**. Anyone in need of spiritual, emotional, or physical healing is welcome. **The next Healing Mass will be Tuesday, January 2 at 7:30 pm.**

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.

Thank you to & from the Holy Name Society



The Holy Name Society would like to thank everyone for coming out last Saturday for the Christmas Tree Lighting. We hope everyone enjoys their trees this Christmas Season! We would also like to thank the Holy Name Society for their hard work and dedication in making this event so successful and enjoyable for all.

Group Meetings

50 Plus Club – The next meeting will be **Friday, December 15 from 1-3 pm** in the Damato Meeting Room of the OLSS Athletic Center. For more information, call Terry at 718-317-1801.

Widowed Club – A group is available for widows and widowers to come together and share their experiences. The next meeting will be **Thurs., December 14** at 1 pm in the Damato Meeting Room. For more info, call Terry at 718-317-1801.

Bereavement Group – The Bereavement Group meetings will begin a new session at a future date. If you have experienced a loss or are in mourning of a family member, and you would like to speak with someone in the bereavement ministry in the meantime, please contact the rectory.

Holy Name Society – The next meeting for the Holy Name Society will be on **Wednesday, January 3 at 8 pm** in the Damato Mtg Room. 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 7:30 pm in the Rectory.

Faith-Sharing Group – The Sons & Daughters of Mary meets on Fridays from 10-11 am in the Rectory Basement.

Legion of Mary – The next meeting of the OLSS Legion of Mary will be **Monday, December 11 at 7:30 pm** in the Chapel. The LOM is responsible to guard for Friday adoration and prays an outdoor rosary the first Saturday of every month in front of the Church at 9:45 am. We also offer the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima for home visitation and to bring Communion and/or visit to the sick or homebound. Our Facebook page is "Legion of Mary OLSS Praesidium". If you are interested in joining the Legion or the auxiliary, please attend one of the meetings or contact Carol at 917-621-7814 for more information or to arrange Pilgrim Virgin Visitation to your home.

OLSS Baptism Preparation Policy



Please reference the front bulletin cover for details on our 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 Ceremonies

EVERY SUNDAY at 2 pm (excluding Dec. 24 & Dec. 31)

Baptismal Class Dates for Parents

December 10 (no class-12/24), January 14 & 28

PLEASE NOTE: Baptism Classes take place at 12 Noon in the Damato Meeting Room of the Athletic Center on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. Baptism Ceremonies take place in the Church EVERY Sunday at 2 pm.

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.

Cluster Corner

Our Lady Help of Christians Mass Times – 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



Parish of St. Joseph-St. Thomas-St. John Neumann

Mass times at St. Thomas - 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

Mass times at 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



For Your Christmas Shopping

Holy Child Ave Maria Gift Shop

Saturdays 3:30 pm – 7:00 pm, Sundays 7:30 am – 2:00 pm

From 12/18-12/22, hours will be 12 pm – 4 pm each day.

Come and See! An Advent Vocation Retreat Day

The Daughters of St. Paul will be hosting a vocation discernment retreat day at their convent on Staten Island on Sunday, **December 10 from 9am-4pm**. Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Discernment Talks, and more. Single women, ages 18-33 years old who would like to learn more about religious life are invited. Contact Sr. Khristina at 617-581-3582 or email srkhristinafsp@gmail.com.

Saint Francis Catholic Singles Christmas Dinner

Saint Francis Catholic Singles, for those in their 30s, 40s, and 50s, will have their 17th annual **Christmas Dinner** on **Friday, December 15** at 7:30 pm at Café Bella Vita (1919 Hylan Blvd., S.I., NY 10305). Price is \$40 per person and includes a four course meal. **All payments must be postmarked by Monday December 11.** Mail CHECKS made out to CASH (with SFCS Christmas Party in memo box) with your name, number and email to: Holy Family Parish; Attn: Singles Christmas Party; 366 Watchogue Road; SI, NY 10314. For more info, please visit: www.sgspci.org, find us on Fb/StFrancisCatholicSingles, or email sfcssi@gmail.com. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for a child 3 – 14 years of age to benefit the East Shore Parishes of Staten Island.

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 – For more info on Parent and Sibling support group meetings for families battling addiction, 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 4**.