

*“...they will call him
Immanuel”
— which means,
“God with us.”*



Matthew 1:23

December 25, 2022



Our Lady of Lourdes

455 Hunter Avenue

West Islip, NY 11795

631.661.3224 | Website: ollchurch.org

Msgr. Brian J. McNamara, Pastor

Rev. Charles Mangano, Associate Pastor

Rev. Saji Jose CM, Chaplain - Our Lady of Consolation Nursing & Rehabilitation



Welcome...

to Our Lady of Lourdes!

Christmas is a time for family. We are glad you decided to celebrate with our Parish Family during this Holy Season. We hope you will return often. If you would like to become a registered member of our Parish, please fill in the information below and place this form in the collection basket or send it to the Parish Office.

Family Name _____

First Names: Head of Household _____ Spouse _____

Children (please include ages, grades and sacraments received)

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail Address _____

Dear Parishioners:

Blessed Christmas! Happy New Year! May the peace of the Christ-child be with you and your family, and may the coming year be filled with much health, happiness and holiness!

I offer a few quotes concerning the spiritual nature of Christmas:

"The story of Christmas is the story of God's relentless love for us." Max Lucado

"The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God." C.S. Lewis

"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you; yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand." Mother Theresa

"Open wide your door to the one who comes. Open your soul, throw open the depths of your heart to see the riches of simplicity, the treasures of peace, the sweetness of grace. Open your heart and run to meet the Son of eternal life that illumines all men." St. Ambrose

"The birth of Jesus gives us the good news that we are loved immensely and uniquely by God himself". Pope Francis

"Joy, prayer and gratitude are three ways that prepare us to experience Christmas in an authentic way." Pope Francis

"Let us ask the Lord to help us see through the superficial glitter, and to discover behind it the child in the stable in Bethlehem, so as to find true joy and true light." Pope Benedict XVI

It is very easy to get caught up in the secular aspects of Christmas: gift-giving, decorations, Santa Claus, etc. However, it would be a mistake to overlook the real meaning of Christmas: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Each Christmas we are reminded that our loving God and Father offers us a special gift, our Lord Jesus Christ. Christ was the first Christmas gift and Christ remains the best of all Christmas gifts.

Moreover, the gift of Christ was not just given to us over 2,000 years ago but Christ is a gift that we can receive each and every week in Holy Communion. This is why it is so important to come to Mass each week: to receive the same Christ that came to us as a baby over 2,000 years ago.

At times, our hectic pace of life can prevent us from appreciating and receiving that gift of Christ. But what a great Christmas gift we can give ourselves by recommitting ourselves to receiving Holy Communion this Christmas and every week after that! Allow God to bless you with the presence of His Son in Holy Communion and through the reception of the Eucharist. Allow God to help to become the saint He created you to be! Allow God to transform you!

Remember: Together, we can do something beautiful for God.

In Christ,

Fr. Brian



Diocese of Rockville Centre
Office of the Bishop

Christmas 2022

To the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre:

Merry Christmas to you and your families!

In union with our Holy Father Pope Francis, and in a non-judgmental spirit of mercy, humility and charity I invite everyone who will be present at our Christmas Masses, or watching our Christmas Masses via the Catholic faith Network or CBS, or not present at all: If your life has been far from the Catholic Mass and Eucharist, I invite you with Pope Francis to return.

I invite you to experience the power and liberation of Christ's mercy and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance and to cross the bridge into the full practice of your Catholic Faith through a radical fidelity to the Sunday Mass and an ever-deepening love for the Holy Eucharist.

Perhaps you are not a Catholic and yet have some mysterious attraction to the Catholic Mass and the Eucharist.

You are not alone! Many saints - I think of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the pioneering American Catholic educator and convert - had the same experience and were drawn to enter the Church through their intuitive experience of the real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist in our parish churches! Be open to the Eucharistic movement of the Holy Spirit in your life!

Our celebration of Christmas 2022 occurs this year as every Catholic diocese does, every catholic parish, every Catholic hospital, university, and institution in the United States is engaged in evangelizing ***Eucharistic Revival***.

What do we mean by the phrase "Eucharistic revival" and why is it so important for our celebration of Christmas?

What does a love for the Eucharist and an openness to being a 21st Century Eucharistic missionary have to do with our celebration of Christmas 2022?

Pope Francis points out the relationship between the Birth of Christ and the Holy Eucharist and the Mass. The very word Bethlehem means "house of Bread".

Pope Francis states: "Bethlehem is the turning point that alters the course of history. There God, in the *house of bread*, is born in a *manger*. It is as if he wanted to say: 'Here I am, as your food.' He does not take, but gives us to eat; he does not give us a mere thing, but his very self. In Bethlehem, we discover that God does not take life, but gives it. To us, who from birth are used to taking and eating, Jesus begins to say: 'Take and eat. This is my body'. (Matthew 26:26) The tiny body of the Child of Bethlehem speaks to us of a new way to live our lives: not by devouring and hoarding, but by sharing and giving. God makes himself small so that he can be our food. By feeding on him, the bread of life, we can be *reborn in love*, and break the spiral of grasping and greed. From the 'house of bread', Jesus brings us back home, so that we can become God's family, brothers and sisters to our neighbors. Standing before the manger, we

understand that the food of life is not material riches but love, not gluttony but charity, not ostentation but simplicity. The Lord knows that we need to be fed daily. That is why he offered himself to us every day of his life: from the manger in Bethlehem to the Upper Room in Jerusalem. Today too, on the altar, he becomes bread broken for us; he knocks at our door, to enter and eat with us (cf. Revelation 3:20). At Christmas, we on earth receive Jesus, the bread from heaven. It is a bread that never grows stale, but enables us even now to have a foretaste of eternal life.”¹

Eucharistic Revival, in the words of Pope St. John Paul II, is a rediscovery of “Eucharistic Amazement” and Eucharistic Devotion.

Eucharistic Revival means that we understand deeply that every mass has a cosmic significance, and every mass is celebrated on the Altar of the world - the Altar of Ukraine and every war torn and injustice-ridden area of our world.

Eucharistic Revival is an effective catechesis of the theology and spirituality of the catholic Mass that moves the hearts, minds, souls and imaginations of the People of God.

Eucharistic Revival in our catholic schools means the cultivation of a radical fidelity to the Sunday Catholic Mass on the part of our teachers, our staff and our families.

Eucharistic Revival is a rekindling of Pope Benedict XVI’s insight that every period of Church reform and effective catholic evangelization and mission throughout history can be traced to a rediscovery of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ, Body Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist.²

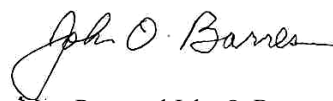
As we celebrate the birth of Christ and his rebirth in our hearts and families at Christmas, we pray for a renewal of our faith in Christ’s Eucharistic presence.

We pray that each of us could be Divine mercy instruments of bringing many, many people back to a full fidelity to the Eucharist and the Catholic Mass.

As we celebrate Christmas, we are called to be intentional, compassionate, understand and listening Eucharistic missionaries.


Merry Christmas to you and your families! May the love of the Christ child and the love of the Holy Family light your remaining steps on earth and light your path to Heaven and Eternal Life.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

Share The Light Of Christ

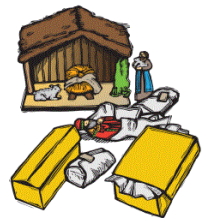


On one gentle night
Under one star so bright
The LIGHT of the World was born!
May the love and peace that was born that night
be with you and your loved ones at Christmas and always.

The Family Ministry Committee

The First Nativity Scene

The origin of the display of the Nativity dates back to the time of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis was concerned that people did not appreciate the gift of Christ's birth. St. Francis wanted to celebrate the Incarnation (God becoming a man) in a special way. He wanted to do something that would help people to remember the Christ Child and how Jesus was born in Bethlehem.



On Christmas Eve, in the year 1223A.D., at the proper time, St. Francis and his Franciscan brothers created a new Bethlehem. People, young and old, came to see this new sight. They carried torches to light up the sky as they approached the manger. Once again, shepherds came from the fields to come and adore the King. All were filled with joy over the mystery of the Incarnation. And a beautiful tradition was started.

As you look upon your own family Nativity set, may you remember and celebrate again God's love for His creation. In order to show His abundant love, mercy, and forgiveness for us, God became one like us. That is what the crèche ultimately symbolizes.

Visit a collection of Nativity Sets from around the world in the Parish Center through January 15.

Readings for the Week of December 25, 2022

Sunday: Day: Is 52:7-10/ Heb 1:1-6/ Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Monday: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59/ Mt 10:17-22
Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/ Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/ Mt 2:13-18
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/ Lk 2:22-35
Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/ or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17// Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/ Jn 1:1-18/
Next Sunday: Nm 6:22-27/ Gal 4:4-7/ Lk 2:16-21

Christmas Raffle

Below please find a set of 6 chances. It is a 50-50 drawing. Chances are \$25 each or 6 chances for \$100. 1st place winner will win 35% of the money, 2nd place will win 10% of the money and 3rd place will win 5% of the money. You have to be in it to win it!

The drawing will take place on **Sunday, January 15 after the 12:30pm Mass.**

Hopefully, the Wise Men will bring you a gift of a winning ticket!

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE	CHRISTMAS RAFFLE	CHRISTMAS RAFFLE
Name _____	Name _____	Name _____
Phone _____	Phone _____	Phone _____
1 Ticket for \$25; 6 Tickets for \$100	1 Ticket for \$25; 6 Tickets for \$100	1 Ticket for \$25; 6 Tickets for \$100
CHRISTMAS RAFFLE	CHRISTMAS RAFFLE	CHRISTMAS RAFFLE
Name _____	Name _____	Name _____
Phone _____	Phone _____	Phone _____
1 Ticket for \$25; 6 Tickets for \$100	1 Ticket for \$25; 6 Tickets for \$100	1 Ticket for \$25; 6 Tickets for \$100

Christmas Around the World

“**Feliz Navidad**” All across **MEXICO**, members of the Church put on Pastorelas (Shepherd's Plays) to retell the Christmas story. The Mexican Christmas season begins early in December with Las Posadas, a religious march that re-enacts the journey of Mary and Joseph. The vibrant red poinsettia flowers are also used in holiday arrangements for decoration throughout the country.

“**Hyvää Joulua!**” In **FINLAND**, many Finns visit the sauna on Christmas Eve. Families gather and listen to the national “Peace of Christmas” radio broadcast. At about 5:00 or 6:00pm, it is customary to visit the gravesites of departed family members.

“**Merikurisumasu**” In **JAPAN**, forget the Christmas turkey! Believe it or not, for many Japanese, traditional Christmas dinner is Kentucky Fried Chicken. Due to a combination of tiny Japanese ovens and a clever marketing campaign convincing locals that fried chicken is a traditional American Yuletide feast, reservations have to be made to eat at a KFC on Christmas Day. During the run-up to Christmas, Colonel Sanders statues outside KFC’s Japanese outlets wear Santa gear. The chicken is served in special holiday packaging.

“**Boze Narodzenie**” In **Poland**, dinner cannot begin until the first star appears in the night sky, symbolizing the sight of the star of Bethlehem. Also, tradition dictates that the breaking of the *oplatek* – a Polish Christmas wafer – also has to happen before everyone can eat. An *oplatek* is a thin, tasteless wafer that is typically rectangular in shape and is often embossed with a traditional Christmas symbol, such as the Nativity or the Star of Bethlehem. Once everyone is around the table, each person will break off a piece of the wafer as they wish each other Merry Christmas, along with wishes for peace and prosperity.

“**Christmas Puthuvalsara Ashamsakal**” In **INDIA**, though only 2% of the nation’s population is Christian, Christmas is a national holiday. Even non-Christians observe Christmas traditions such as lighting oil lamps along the perimeter of the home’s courtyard or roof.

GREENLAND wins the award for longest preparation time of a Christmas meal.

Greenland’s traditional Christmas dish, *kiviak*, takes a full seven months to prepare. It begins with hollowing out a seal skin and stuffing it with 500 auks – a sea bird (feathers and all) – to ferment. When the holiday rolls around, it’s served straight from the seal.



Christmas Fun Facts

Pope Julius I, originally proclaimed December 25 the official celebration day for Jesus' birthday back in 350 AD.

The city of Riga, Latvia holds the claim as home to history's first decorated Christmas tree, back in 1510.

In the early 17th century, a wave of religious reform changed the way Christmas was celebrated in Europe. When Oliver Cromwell and his Puritan forces took over England in 1645, they vowed to rid England of decadence and, as part of their effort, cancelled Christmas. By popular demand, Charles II was restored to the throne and, with him, came the return of the popular holiday.

The Pilgrims, English separatists that came to America in 1620, were even more orthodox in their Puritan beliefs than Cromwell. As a result, Christmas was not a holiday in early America. From 1659 to 1681, the celebration of Christmas was actually outlawed in Boston. Anyone exhibiting the Christmas spirit was fined five shillings. That would be about \$300 in 2022 U.S. money!!

George Frederick Handel's timeless Christmas classic, "The Messiah", was first performed in Dublin, Ireland in 1742.

The idea for electric Christmas light displays were first introduced by Thomas Edison's assistant, Edward Johnson, in 1882. But it was American Ralph Morris who invented the type of lights we use today, adapting from the lights used in telephone switchboards in 1895.

Alabama was the first state to declare Christmas an official holiday, in 1836. It wasn't declared a national holiday in the United States until 1870.

The first Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center looked more like Charlie Brown's than the resplendent one today. Construction workers first placed a small, undecorated tree while working there in 1931. Two years later, another tree appeared in its place, this time draped in lights. It just kept getting bigger every year. Today, the majestic tree bears more than 25,000 twinkling lights.





Londoners and visitors alike probably know the iconic spruce that stretches to the sky in Trafalgar Square each year, but few realize it's an equally iconic holiday gift. Every year since 1947, the people of Norway donate the tree in gratitude for Britain's support for Norway during World War II.

Nine days before Christmas in 1965, two astronauts aboard the Gemini 6 told Mission Control that they saw an "unidentified flying object" about to enter Earth's atmosphere, traveling in the polar orbit from north to south. Just as things got tense, they interrupted the broadcast with "Jingle Bells," as Wally Schirra played a small harmonica accompanied by Tom Stafford shaking a handful of small sleigh bells. Because of this, "Jingle Bells" holds the world record for being the first song ever played in outer space!

It takes Christmas trees around 15 years to grow to 6-8 feet. There are approximately 30-35 million Christmas trees grown annually.

According to old English folk tales, the Devil died when Jesus was born. So, some towns developed a Christmas Eve tradition of ringing the church bells near midnight to announce the Devil's demise. In England this custom was called tolling or ringing "the Devil's knell."

The first Christmas film dates all the way back to 1898. The British film, titled *Santa Claus*, was both silent and short, telling the simple story of two children who were waiting for jolly St. Nick to visit.

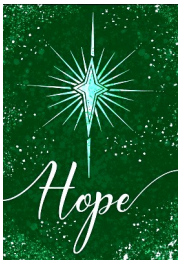
During World War II, The United States Playing Card Company joined forces with American and British intelligence agencies to create a very special deck of cards. They distributed them as Christmas gifts, but they also helped Allied prisoners of war escape from German POW camps. When wet, individual cards peeled apart to reveal maps of escape routes.

We all know the same few handfuls of Christmas songs play at stores and on the radio in a loop all season long. But one of them has been adapted more than others. "Silent Night" earns that title, as the most-recorded Christmas song in history. It's had more than 733 different versions copyrighted.

Each year during Christmas, over 8.5 million lights are used to decorate the magical Walt Disney World.

Christmas Gifts

Christmas is a busy, magical time of year. We begin to have hustle and bustle around us. One of the first things we think of at Christmas is GIFTS or PRESENTS. What shall we get for everyone on our list or what shall we get as a present? At Christmas we receive the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ our Lord, born as a baby in Bethlehem. While He is the greatest gift, He comes bearing other gifts for each of us. He brings gifts that we can treasure and nurture all year long. This Advent we will look at one of these special gifts each week to help us prepare for Jesus' coming into our hearts at Christmas.



Our Gift this First Week of Advent is HOPE. For the children of Israel, it seemed as if all HOPE for the coming of the Savior that had been promised had passed. When the Christ Child was born, the gift of HOPE came with Him. All HOPE was restored in the promises of God. We receive the gift of HOPE that Christ will come into our hearts and His teachings will spread throughout the world this Christmas.



Our Gift this Second Week of Advent is JOY. The angel told the shepherds that the Good News was of GREAT JOY. The gift of JOY helps us recognize that we are blessed in every way by having Jesus in our lives. Jesus is among us to comfort and guide us at all times, even when times are hard. We continue to have Good News in our lives every day. Take JOY in knowing that God is with you.



Our Gift for the Third Week of Advent is PEACE. The angels announced the wonderful gift of PEACE to the shepherds on the first Christmas. Our world, more than ever, is in need of PEACE right now. The Peace that Jesus brings flows to each of us if we open our hearts. This PEACE allows us to be calm and know that we are in God's hands.



Our Gift for the Fourth and Final Week of Advent is LOVE. Our gift on this fourth and final week of Advent is LOVE. Jesus came as God's LOVE in human form. Jesus teaches us God's great LOVE for us and tells us to LOVE God with our whole heart and to love each other. Let us remember this great LOVE each and every day.

Roman Martyrology

Throughout the season of Advent, the Church has reflected on God's promises, so often spoken by the prophets, to send a savior to the people of Israel who would be Emmanuel, that is, God with us. In the fullness of time, those promises were fulfilled. With hearts full of joy let us listen to the proclamation of our Savior's birth.

Today, the twenty-fifth day of December, unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in His own image.

Several thousand years after the flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant.

*Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;
thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt.
Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges;
one thousand years from the anointing of David as king;
in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel.*

In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome.

*The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
the whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ,
eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,
desiring to sanctify the world by His most merciful coming,
being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and
nine months having passed since His conception, was born in
Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary.*

Today is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

Come let us adore Him!



Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Angela MacDermott*. If you would like to help care for our altar needs, please call the Parish Office at 631-661-3224.

Members in the Military

We ask that you pray especially for those in our parish that are on active duty.

Michael DiMatteo -US Marine Corps	Melissa Mockler -US Navy
Michael Fantauzzi -US Air Force	Patric Mockler -US Navy
Christopher Florca -US Marine Corps	Andrew Perniciaro -US Army
Dominick Gennaro -US Army	Brandon Ranzie -US Army
Patrick Harty -US Coast Guard	Stephen Rolston -US Army
Ritchard Higham -US Army	Jack Shires -US Navy
Colby Matthew Kelly -US Army	Raymond Sgambati -US Navy
Luke Loftsgaarden -US Army	James Stultz -US Army
Anthony Mannino -US Marine Corps	Jack Taffner -US Marine Corps
Msgr. Brian McNamara -US Air Force	Michael Wilkinson -US Army
Anthony Memoli -US Marine Corps	Peter Zaccaria -US Navy
Timothy Milligan -US Marine Corps	

... and remember those of our parish family that are in the armed services, listed in our Parish Book of Intentions.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

We will be having extended hours of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on this **Tuesday, December 27th from 12:30pm to 7:30pm**. Come, spend some intimate time with Jesus during our Extended Adoration. Invite a family member or friend along too! In case of inclement weather, please call the parish office at 631-661-3224 ext. 0, or log onto the parish website (ollchurch.org) to check if adoration has been canceled.



Pastoral Care of Our Sick

Please call the Parish Office at 631-661-3224 to leave the names of parishioners who:

- Are homebound and would like to receive the Eucharist.
- Are in Good Samaritan Hospital and/or a local nursing home and would like to be visited by a member of our Pastoral Care Ministry.
- Would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick.

Pray for Our Sick

Please remember to keep in your thoughts and prayers ...

Jon Ackerman, Connie Ambrosino, Baby Ellis, Thomas J. Calogero III, Maria Clark, Susan Dedes, Dcn. John DeGuardi, Amanda DiTingo, Paula Edwards, Nicolette Gebhardt, Thomas Geraghty-USMC, William Hacker, Patrick Anthony Heffron, Henry Kahn, Shena Kahn, Anne Kerrigan, James Leung, Vincent Marinelli, Joseph Marrone, Jr., John McMahon, Zachary Melengic, Richard Meyer, Edward Pauciullo, Bob Petersen, Mary Polik-Gunther, John Posanti, Louise Posanti, Clifford Proctor, Dina Rajotte, Ida Schiavoni, Joseph J. Schiavoni, Vita Scorcica

Names of the sick will be listed for **six weeks** for short-term requests and **six months** for long-term.

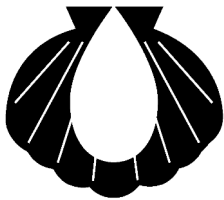
*Masses may be viewed via livestream on our Facebook page.
Please join us directly on Facebook or by visiting our
website at: ollchurch.org, where you will be redirected.
You do not need a Facebook account.*



Rest In Peace

Tom J. Hoefflerle

*We extend our prayerful
sympathy to the families
and loved ones of those
recently deceased.*



Baptism

*Ethan Ifeanyi Amatuegwu
Violet Jane Chojnowski*

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 26

St. Stephen

8:30am Rocco J. Izzo

Tuesday, December 27

St. John the Evangelist

8:30am John Keane

Wednesday, December 28

The Holy Innocents

8:30am Andre Alcobia

Thursday, December 29

St Thomas Becket

8:30am John B. Fatuzzo

Friday, December 30

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:30am Salvatore Pinello

Saturday, December 31

St. Sylvester I

**8:30am Beverly Caparella, Sheri Stroph, Evan Proctor,
Dr. Charles & Josephine Barrale, Jack Fitzgerald,
Bart Gorzelik (Living)**

5:00pm Anita Falabella

Fr. Charles Mangano

Sunday, January 1

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

8:00am Noreen Colgan

Msgr. Brian McNamara

9:30am Salvatore Pinello

Msgr. Brian McNamara

11:00am Freddy Gallagher

Fr. Charles Mangano

12:30pm Richard H. Landry

Fr. Charles Mangano

6:00pm No 6:00pm Mass on New Year's Day

Are You Being Called to Serve as a Deacon?

Come to any one of these meetings prepared
to LISTEN - to PRAY- to REFLECT- to DISCERN where God is calling you!

EVENINGS are being offered conveniently at THREE LOCATIONS:

7:00pm, Tuesday, January 10th

St. Joseph Ronkonkoma, 45 Church Street

7:00pm, Wednesday, January 11th

Maria Regina Seaford, 3945 Jerusalem Avenue

7:00pm, Thursday, January 19th

St. Aidan Williston Park, 505 Willis Avenue

EARLY WEEKEND option to be held at

1:00pm, Sunday, January 15th

St. John the Evangelist Center Moriches, 25 Ocean Avenue

RSVP by Friday, January 6th to 631-423-0483 ext.179 or by e-mail to diaconateformation@drvc.org

We thank you and look forward to being with you



Important DRVC Information

Information regarding a new deadline to file proofs of claim for victims of sexual abuse who were over 18 or older when the alleged conduct occurred and the forms to use, can be found by clicking on the following link to the Diocese's bankruptcy website and scrolling down the page: <https://dm.epiq11.com/drvc>.

Important Information for ALL Parish Volunteers

The Diocese of Rockville Centre requires all clergy, employees, and volunteers (18 yrs. or older) to participate in the Safe Environment Guidelines as established by the Charter for the Protection of Children/Young People (2002) and outlined in the Diocesan Child Protection Policy.

Note: If you already have a Virtus account (www.Virtus.org), have signed the Code of Conduct and attended the Class, all you need to do is initiate the updated background screening through Sterling Volunteers.

Requirements are as follows:

1. Attend a Virtus: Protecting God's Children class.
2. Undergo background screening.
3. Sign the Diocesan Code of Conduct.

Instructions to Complete the Safe Environment Requirements:

- Log into the Virtus website: www.Virtus.org.
- Begin the registration process by creating a Virtus account. The first screen requests the location: Please select Rockville Centre from the drop down list.
- Follow directions on each page.
- During the registration process you will receive a copy of the Code of Conduct and Pastoral Code of Conduct. Please sign each Code electronically.
- Select the class you wish to attend.
- Complete the background screening application provided. Background screening is conducted by Sterling Volunteers.

When you complete the registration process, you will have a Virtus account and an account with Sterling Volunteers. Your Virtus account will contain the date you signed the Codes of Conduct; date you submitted the background screening application and date you will attend Virtus. Please keep your username and the password for both your Virtus account and Sterling account as these are required to access each account.

Please contact the Office for the Protection of Children/Young People if you have questions or require assistance. cprotection@drvc.org

Mark Your Calendar: Bible Study ***Do you want to hear God speak to you?***

For most of us, prayer becomes a source of frustration as we struggle to calm our minds to find even a few minutes to pray. In our busy lives, prayer is seen as a luxury, when in reality it is essential and fortifies the foundation of our lives. Do you pray and therefore have a healthy spiritual life? The good news is that you can overcome your difficulties with prayer, and it is easier than you might think. Therefore, join me as I will be leading an eight-week series entitled **Oremus** (*In Latin it means, "Let us pray"*). If you are feeling the Lord prompting you to be a part of this bible study, mark your calendar and call the parish office to register at (631) 661-3224 Ext. 2. We want to make sure there will be enough chairs and workbooks for everyone. The seating is limited to 108 people. Over the eight weeks, the Oremus Study program will teach you the essentials of an effective and fruitful prayer life. This is what Oremus can do for you:

- Become more deeply aware of God's presence in your life
- Discover the simple yet profound steps to Catholic prayer
- Learn how to respond to God and express yourself in prayer
- Discover how to hear God's voice in Scripture, in your heart, and in ordinary moments
- Learn how to overcome frustrations, distractions, and dryness in prayer
- Grow in your relationship with God and those around you, and much more....

Every class meets from 7:30pm to 9:15pm in the Parish Center. The eight dates are: **Tuesday**, April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, June 6 & 13. The evening will consist of an opening prayer, a song and watching an excellent 30 minute video presentation by Fr. Mark Toups, a wonderful speaker from Louisiana. Then there will be a group discussion through small sharing groups with the workbook provided, closing announcements and a closing prayer. There is no set fee for the course but a free-will offering would be graciously accepted to help defray the cost of the workbooks. We will also be using the bible during this study. If you need a Catholic bible, the owner of the Advent Religious Store in Massapequa, Sarah Ryan, will bring bibles to Oremus for purchase.

As Fr. Mark has assisted me in my own prayer life through Oremus, I know he can assist you with yours. I highly recommend Oremus. I have been blessed to have been on several retreats where Fr. Mark was my spiritual director. He is the best at what he does. Fr. Mark was ordained in 2001 and is a priest for the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana. He is presently the Pastor of Our Lady of the Isle parish in Grand Isle, Louisiana. He is also Vicar General and Director of the Office of Parish Support in his diocese and an adjunct faculty member for the Institute of Priestly Formation, specializing in communications, development and spiritual direction. Fr. Mark served for several years as Chancellor of his Diocese, the Pastor of two other parishes and Director of Seminarians. He received his Masters of Divinity degree from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. Fr. Mark is the author of Ascension Press resources: Oremus: A Catholic Guide to Prayer \ Rejoice! Advent Meditations with Mary \ Rejoice! Advent Meditations with Joseph. He brings a wide range of experience to this bible study.

I hope you will prayerfully consider joining me.

Calling all facilitators: we need facilitators for our small sharing groups during the 8 weeks of the Oremus bible study. It's not difficult, I will train you. The facilitator helps the sharing group to remain on topic during the time of discussion. The training session is set for Tuesday, April 18th at 7:30pm in the Parish Center. Please RSVP to the parish office so we can make sure we have enough facilitators. Thank you so much.

I am looking forward to this time of journeying with you through Oremus.

Peace and blessings,

Fr. Charles Mangano



Winter Clothing Drive



The Life Center is in desperate need of Gently Used and New Winter Clothes for Boys and Girls in sizes Newborn through 4T. *Please consider donating today!*

Thank you so much for all of the time, talent, and treasure you give us in our shared mission of protecting and cherishing every life, from the womb through eternity. For more information, please contact our Deer Park location at 631-273-2373.

Casa Project Update

In the past, the “Casa House” in the Narthex has provided housing, bedding and ecostoves for our friends in El Salvador. We couldn't do this without your support and generosity. Next weekend (12/31 and 1/1) we are asking you to give your loose change to our Casa Project. Place your donations in the wooden house located in the north vestibule by the Father Joe Garden. Thank you for your support. We truly appreciate your generosity.



Financial Summary

December 18, 2020

Weekly Collection	\$ 17,968.00
Weekly Budget	- \$ 17,800.00
+/- for the week	\$ 168.00

The estimated weekly collection needed to maintain and operate our parish buildings, ministries, programs and salaries is \$17,800.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

We will be having extended hours of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on this **Tuesday, December 27th from 12:30pm to 7:30pm**. Come, spend some intimate time with Jesus during our Extended Adoration. Invite a family member or friend along too! In case of inclement weather, please call the parish office at 631-661-3224 ext. 0, or log onto the parish website (ollchurch.org) to check if adoration has been canceled.

Divine Mercy Prayer Group

We come together in the Church every Thursday from 1:30pm-2:30pm to pray and reflect on the Divine Mercy. We welcome anyone wishing to join us in this mission.

Donations to Outreach

If you would like to make a donation to Parish Outreach in memory of a loved one, please call Trish Frodell, Director of Parish Social Ministry at 631-661-3224, option 4.



- Cookies
- Crackers
- Canned Fruit
- Ketchup
- Laundry Detergent



New Year's Eve/ New Year's Day Schedule

The Parish Office will be **open until 3:00pm on New Year's Eve, December 31st**. We will be **closed on January 1, New Year's Day and on Monday, January 2 in observance of New Year's Day.**

The Parish Office will re-open on Tuesday, January 3 at 9:00am.

NEW YEAR'S EVE/DAY: FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD:

December 31: New Year's Eve:

5:00pm Church

January 1: New Year's Day:

8:00am Church

9:30am Church

11:00am Church

12:30pm Church



Don't forget our Christmas Raffle. The tickets are \$25 each or six (6) tickets for \$100: You have to be in it to win it! Maybe you can give them as Christmas gifts, especially to your adult children. The drawing will take place on Sunday, Jan 15 after the 12:30pm Mass. The Raffle is a 50-50, so the more people who enter, the greater the winnings. Check page 6 of the bulletin for tickets.

Second Collection - Solemnity of Mary

The Second Collection next weekend (December 31-January 1) is for the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. As always, we thank you for your generosity.



An Invitation from the Knights of Columbus

Men of the Parish (18 years and older), are you interested in serving your Faith, your Church, and your Community? If so, then you are invited to join the Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of Lourdes Council 17379. Joining the Knights will make you part of a 129 year old Catholic Fraternal Order that exemplifies the high ideals of our faith and has contributed to our communities through charitable works and community outreach. We meet on the second and fourth Monday of each month in the Parish Center. The fourth Monday is an Officers' meeting, but members are welcome to attend. Meetings begin at 8:00pm. So begin your journey of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism by becoming a Knight!

Online membership is also available at: www.KofC.org.

Our next meeting will be Monday, December 26, 2022 at 8:00pm in the Parish Center.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

What's it all about?

IF you are an adult **AND**

- ... you were never Baptized
- ... you were Baptized in another faith and would like to become a baptized Catholic
- ... you never received Holy Communion (Eucharist)
- ... you never received your Confirmation

IF you are an adult **AND** one or more of the circumstances above apply to you ...

IF you feel you would like to become a baptized Catholic or become more fully initiated into your Catholic faith... Our email address is RCIA@ollchurch.org or call the Parish Office at 631-661-3224, and we would be happy to help you.



Christmas

FLOWER OFFERING

Patrick Manley, Donald McCormick and Raymond Haberski
Ellen McMahon, Thomas McMahon, June Carrick & John Carrick Living & Deceased Members of MacArthur, Meehan, and England Families
Paul & Meta Ermert
All Members of Mangels and Murphy Families
Mrs. Melissa Rogan
Gomez & Vazquez Family
Mr. Terence Moore
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Pylp
Deceased Members of the Paprocky, Pasini, Oross and Martino Families
James O'Brien, Evelyn Wessels, May Steward, Jessie Neal Sr., and John Steward
Leonard & Gertrude Parine, Kenneth Meyer, Martha Wills, Eugene & Lois Parine, Frances Parine
Mr. & Mrs. Angelko Telesmanic
Vincent M. Sepe
Mary Agnes Cody
Matthew Fontaine
Elanora DeMartino
Deceased Members of the Ambrosino and Carrano Families
Carol Lupo
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Denzler
Thomas G. Brando and
Anne Marie McNulty
Bruce Ferland Sr.
Lucy Loodus
Christine Costello, Lucille Yagstrom
Philip Berthold, Katy Berthold

Phil Berthold Jr.
Hannigan & Langan Families
Rooney Family
Mr. & Mrs. John Caparella Sr.
Corrigan & Hawkins Family
Angeloro & Carsti Families
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Livecchi
Raymond W. Everett, Jr
Joseph & Helen Nolan
John & Dolores Oleksiuk
Bunting & Hirt Family
Mr. Daniel Henery
Clair Thomson
Jim & Virginia Anglisano,
Harold & Beatrice Mattel,
Tina Anglisano, Neil Mattel,
Thomas Mattel, Rosemary Scollo,
Lee & Anna Anglisano, Steve Hurban
Kay DiGiovanni, Modestina & John Spollo, Anthony & Paulina Anglisano
Eileen Okuroski
Joseph & Anne Malloy, Joseph Horan
Nicole Ranieri
Rick & Jamie Munkwitz
Thomas & Florence Brady
Fred C. Henning
Frank Aparo
Dowling, Kelly & Petrone Families
Deacon & Mrs. Nilo de Leon
Joseph C. Capo II
Maureen Borzell
Dennis Radesky
James M. Folks Sr.
Reilly & Flanagan Families
Morrow Family
Anthony M. Rao
Ms. Mechelina Geddrie
Anthony Rao, James Boyle
William D. Donovan,
Colleen McNamara and
Christopher Rochford
Elsie Isopo
Deceased Members of the Mezzacappa, de Leon, Feeney, Herrera and Zaragoza Families
Deceased Members of Neuman and Mathews Families
Carpentiere & Donatelli Family
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Cutrone
Deceased Members-Ferguson Family
William Mace
Peter & Florence Roache
Mr. & Mrs. Paradiso
Mr. & Mrs. J. De Cotis
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Tamney
Gerry Fogarty
Mr. & Mrs. Salvatore Gargaro
Domenick & Jean Paladino
Christine Pascale
Matt Kuzmiak

Deceased Members DiMino and McKeefery Families
Andrew Sciaruto Jr.
Richard & Eileen Heffernan
Richard & Maureen Stagnitta
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Walas
Shillitto & Steffensen Families
Dorothy & Robert Robertson
Thomas J. Fey
Marguerite Costantino
Basillio, Melchora & Aquino Family
Margaret & Joseph Colasuonno,
Joseph Marrone,
Helen & Rocco Marrone
Mr. Kevin Cruze
Peter Lynaugh
Al & Mary Dorrington,
Clyde & Esther Sisson
Stephen Gili
Deceased Members of Giuffrè and Pezzuti Families
Deceased Members of the Bronkhurst Family
Helen & John Ianno
Mr. & Mrs. Blas Hernandez
Martin Bierman
Jeffrey Radosti
Mr. & Mrs. William Mazzoli
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Balestri
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Kilkelly
Robert Beck
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Lavelle
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Alvarado
Mrs. Elena Nunez
Peter Lynch
Mr. John Gilmartin
Morales & Mazzola Family
Mr. Steven Petito
Kuhlwilm & Estelle Families
Mr. & Mrs. David Paprocky
Mary & Joseph Lennon
Mary Williams
Mr. & Mrs. John Giambrone
Mr. & Mrs. E.J. Terribile
Patricia ("Yaya") Rabaglia
Foley & Keane Families
Deceased Members of the Colletti and Guarino Families
Stanley Renkas
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Conwell
John McArdle
Mr. & Mrs. Richard T. Finn
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Avella
Anne Kilkelly
Jack, Laura, Jackie & Steven Dawson
Joe, Laura & Laurie Campsi
Lee Sferlazza
Mr. & Mrs. John Sehn
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Mockler
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kaminski

*Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Sterling
Josephine Montesanto
Mary Ellen Ranzie
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Yagarich
Mr. & Mrs. R. Valonis
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Munch Jr
DiTingo & Oliveri Families
Margaret & Anthony Cavallo
Jennie & Joseph Vella
Ellen Finn
Floencia Delfin, Pete DeRoxas
Ciccarello & Sierra Families
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Ramirez Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Dipietrantonio
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Micara
Caraline Sullivan
Jimmy & Dulce Miranda
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Cuniglio
Sal & Rose Guastella
Mr. & Mrs. George Geraghty
Ann & Tom Kavanaugh
Guider & Heartt Families
Elizabeth Reilly
Frank Mulligan
George Pepe
Charles & Dorothy Widdicombe
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Mascolo
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Petersen
Omi, Opa and Grandpa
Ginny & John Cruse,
Joan Hawthorne and
Edward White
Roy & Cecelia George
Albert Raynor, Gloria Farina
Mrs. Modesta Alcobia
Lawrence & Elaine Stehl
Dowd & Fioravanti Family
Madeline Hopper
Mom Asuncion and
Mom & Dad Clifford
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Benavides
Mr. Peter Silvestri
James Teague
Michele Slaughter
Pat Sgambati
Pat Sgambati
Mr. & Mrs. Angelito Cruz
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Vardaro
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hass
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Ingrassia
Mrs. Elsie Koch
Delphina Ferreira
Mr. & Mrs. John Guerin
Mylo Manno
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Gal
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hannon
Janet Schreiber
Mr. & Mrs. James Wood*

*Mr. & Mrs. Jaroslaw Konopka
Mr. & Mrs. Magliocco
Mr. & Mrs. Corso
John & Millie Ritchie
Mr. & Mrs. Vincenzo Russo
Marie Conti
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Malandro
Mr. Michael Poveromo
Zenon Niewinski
John & Rose Rickey
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Giarratano
Margaret Dugan & Jane Keegan
Ms. Mary Jane Boyles
Anna Nicolosi
Dolores Lazarich
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. James Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. G. Punzi
Mr. & Mrs. M. Furia
Michael & Catherine Maneri
James Enright Sr.
Beatriz Mendez
Robert Aziz
Bob Meyer
Joao Mendes & Susana Lima
Mr. & Mrs. Michael McGuire
Mr. & Mrs. James Chimento
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Rotolo
Mr. & Mrs. Jason DeLuca
Mr. & Mrs. Bart Viruso
Mr. & Mrs. Terence Woodside
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Fecteau
Joseph A. Kelly Jr.
Ms. Julie Magee
Mr. & Mrs. William Young
Our Faithful Departed
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Walsh
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kane
Gail Solomonik
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Muller
Connie Gersbeck
Vito Palmieri, Arline Palmieri
Mr. & Mrs. George West
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Piscola
Charles Rubino, Robert Lee
Bob Quigley
Ms. Janice Allen
Mr. & Mrs. William Marchuk
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Manziak
Mrs. Janet McQueeney
Mr. Richard German
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Egerter
Mr. & Mrs. Jose F. Taveras
Helen Richichi
Stephanie Esposito
Helen Lehmann
Mr. & Mrs. Edmund Kinney*

*Mr. & Mrs. Joseph T. Mirro
Mr. & Mrs. Domenic Dachille
Mrs. Patricia Fiust
Mr. & Mrs. William Sheehan
Eileen Okurowski
Ms. Patricia A. Koch
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas A. Perri
Ms. Concetta Cristaudo
Ms. Nancy Peragine
John & Ronnie Welch
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Rendine
Ms. Dolores Rivera
Anna Raia Loffredo
Mrs. Aloisia Foote*

**Christmas Flower Offerings
received after December 4th
will be published
in subsequent bulletins.**



In addition to our parish website (ollchurch.org), please visit us on *Facebook* at *The Parish Family of Our Lady of Lourdes*. Click “Like” and you will receive the latest news on upcoming parish events and information.

Preparing for Marriage?

Do you need to fulfill your Marriage Prep Requirement?

Engaged Encounter is an effective Pre-Cana program designed to provide you with the tools for a successful marriage. Couples are provided with social-distancing during this time.

Our next 2-day weekend will be held at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington on **March 18-19, 2023**. For information please call Lenny & Pat Walker at: 631-563-1032 or visit: longisland.engagedencounter.com.



Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Attention Married Couples & Priests

Are you ready for more growth and happiness in your marriage or priesthood? Uncover the secrets to a lasting, supportive, transformational marriage on a **World Wide Marriage Encounter Weekend**. If you're thinking forward towards the New Year, think about thanking the special person in your life, your spouse. Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience together: **February 3-5, 2023** at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Huntington. Register at: WWME.org or contact: Chuck & Maria Reiss at: 631-486-8607



Anxiety Disorder Sufferers

The group, led by a trained and certified Anxiety Disorder Group Leader, will meet every Tuesday from 2:00pm-4:00pm in the Parish Center (located across from the playground and to the right of Outreach). For more information and to register, please call Michael at 631-968-9154.

Everyone is encouraged to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.

Support Groups *(all meetings are in Lourdes Hall - lower level of Convent)*

Alcoholics Anonymous: Monday and Tuesday at 8:00pm and Saturday at 11:00am and 7:00pm.

ALANON: Wednesday at 10:00am. Beginner's meeting at 9:30am. Free babysitting available.

2nd and 4th Wednesday meetings are via Zoom. For more meeting info visit: al-anon.org.

Families Anonymous Meetings

12-Step support group giving Hope & Strength to parents, family and friends concerned with a loved one's destructive behavior caused by Alcohol, Drugs or Related Behavioral Problems will meet virtually and in person. For additional information e-mail: Donna526@aol.com or call Diane at: 631-587-0966 or Donna at: 631-589-3790. Website: FamiliesAnonymous.org.

Religion and Rock

Tune into “Religion and Rock” with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7:00am to 8:00am on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 on the East End of Long Island. Listen on Saturdays at 11:00pm on Sirius Radio, Channel 159, the Catholic Channel and at 11:00pm on XM Satellite, Channel 117. Next Sunday's theme is “**Being Excited**”. To listen online or for more information, visit: www.ReligionandRock.com.

Casa Project Update

In the past, the “Casa House” in the Narthex has provided housing , bedding and ecostoves for our friends in El Salvador. We couldn't do this without your support and generosity. Next weekend (12/31 and 1/1) we are asking you to give your loose change to our Casa Project. Place your donations in the wooden house located in the north vestibule by the Father Joe Garden. Thank you for your support. We truly appreciate your generosity.



Dementia Caregiver Support Group Thursday, December 19, 2022



Caregiving for someone with Alzheimer's or a related dementia can cause frustration, fear, anger, sadness and other emotions. Our support group can provide emotional, social, and educational help to caregivers whose lives are affected by dementia.

Join us on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 5:30pm–7:00pm in the Parish Center.

There is no charge to participate, but please contact Michele at 631-647-7622, ext. 2006 or via email at: michele@agentletouchseniorcare.com to reserve your place.

Butterfly Memory Café - December 6th from 1:30-2:30pm



What is a Memory Café? It is a program designed for persons with mild to moderate cognitive impairment and their caregiver to promote social engagement with others navigating through dementia's journey. Activities include crafts, music, reminiscing, art or movement. Light refreshments will be served. Our next event will take place on Friday, December 6th from 1:30pm-2:30pm. There is no charge to participate, but space is limited and reservations are required. For more information or to register, please call Michele at A Gentle Touch Senior Care at: 631-647-7622 or e-mail: michele@agentletouchseniorcare.com.



Boy Scout Troop 179

For 50 years, Our Lady of Lourdes has been sponsoring Boy Scout Troop 179 of West Islip Troop meetings are held every Thursday at 7:30pm.

If you are interested in learning more about Boy Scouts and our Troop, please visit our website: <https://witroop179.wixsite.com/bsatroop179> or contact us at: troop179cc@yahoo.com.

Retrouvaille Weekend - Marriage Struggling?

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other?

Do you argue or have you just stopped talking to each other?

Does talking about it only make it worse?

Are you separated or divorced or *thinking about separation or divorce*?

The Retrouvaille Program helps couples through difficult times in their marriages.

Long Island/Metro Retrouvaille is a 5013c non-profit, peer ministry. Couples of all faiths, or no faith, are encouraged to attend, and no one is ever turned away for lack of funds.

For confidential information about the Retrouvaille program, or to register for the next weekend

January 27-29, 2023, please visit our website at: www.helpourmarriage.org

or call: **1-800-470-2230** and you will be connected directly and confidentially to a couple from Long Island/Metro Retrouvaille who can help.

Weekend Location: Immaculate Conception Seminary
440 West Neck Road, Huntington, NY 11743

*Pronunciation: “retro vi” - French for rediscover **Because No Marriage is Beyond Hope***

