

# BULLETIN

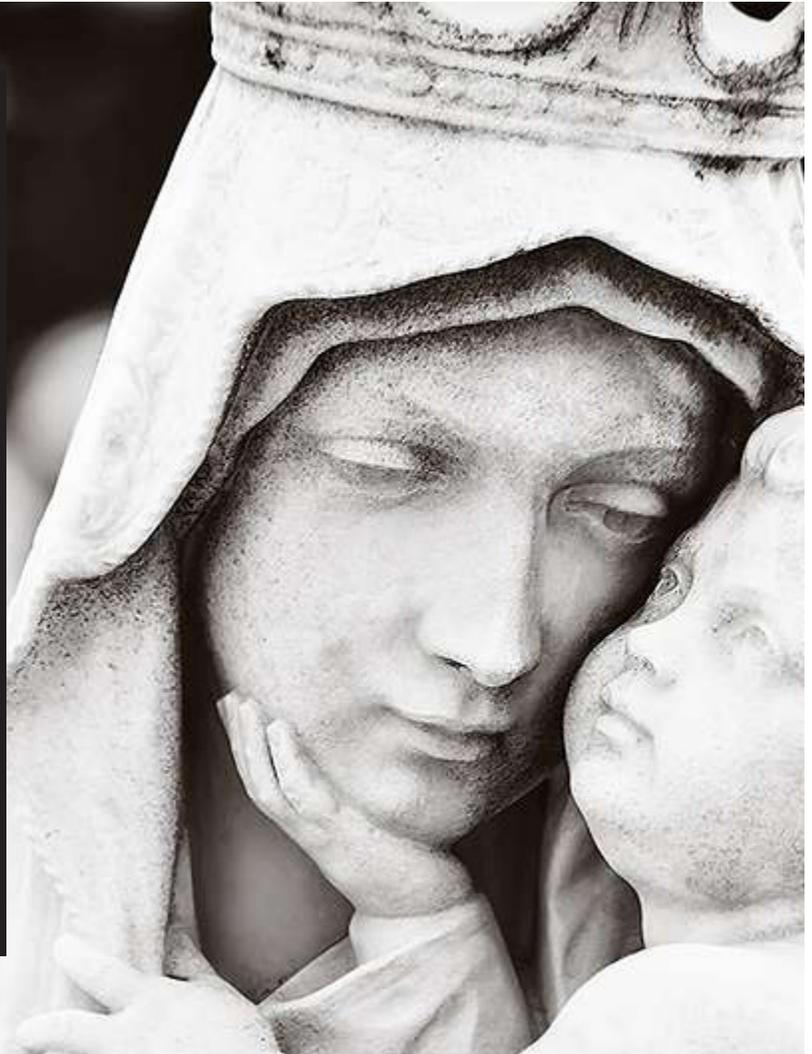
# OUR LADY OF MERCY

40 Sullivan Drive, Jersey City, NJ 07305 • www.olmnj.org

January 7, 2018 • The Epiphany of the Lord

*“Mary is exactly what God wants us to be, what he wants his Church to be: a Mother who is tender and lowly, poor in material goods and rich in love, free of sin and united to Jesus, keeping God in our hearts and our neighbor in our lives.”*

– POPE FRANCIS



## FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy:



Happy New Year!

My prayer for each of you is that this year may you be filled with every good and holy gift. And from the bottom of my hearts and in the name of the whole community, I thank you for your generosity during Christmas season. Your Christmas gift to the parish is greatly appreciated. I really cannot thank you enough. God, who sees every-

thing and everyone, stretch out His hands upon you and bless you always.

As this year begins, may you move on with enthusiasm and joy in building up God's kingdom here on earth with the talents you have been gifted with. I look around (at each and every one of you) and I see so many different gifts in you that you can surely offer to the service of God's Church. Let me encourage you: use it! Do not hold back. Give back to God what you have been blessed with and you will see

## INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS FOR JANUARY 2018

Pope's Universal Intentions: Religious Minorities in Asia



*That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practise their faith in full freedom.*

## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION: JANUARY 7, 2018

*“..they fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh...”*  
- Matthew 2:11

Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

## SCRIPTURE PASSAGES: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reading 1: Is 60:1-6 / Responsorial: Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13  
. / Reading 2: Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 / Gospel: Mt 2:1-12

*(from the Desk of the Pastor)*

how wonderful it is to be able to help others and especially those who are in need. God is calling you once again to ponder on what the Scripture is saying. Christ is revealed to the whole human race as God's Only Begotten Son and (myself included) we are asked to adore Him, pay homage to Him as the magi did. And like the magi, what gift do we want to bring to Jesus, Our Lord? Or better yet, what is that gift we possess that we can use to further God's kingdom here on earth?

I would like to leave you with that question. And if you have the answer, please step up.

Thank you and God bless you all!

Love,  
+Father Marty

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#### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

*Paul Calefati, Elaine Staltari, Othelia G. Laurena, Jean Karycinski, Dorothy Darcy, Erlinda Jacinto, Leonora Loyola, Eric Bautista, Lilian Kryczkowski, Ellen Iorio, Jessica Pavone, Ian Malesiewski, Ruben Catipon, Angela Salvador, Clarita Salvador, Teresita Cordon, Vincent Mastria, Maria Svaligma, Bill Macchi, Craig Rutkowski, James Seaman, Makenzie Cadmus, Manuel J. Juson, MD, Gina Marquez, Daniel Tamayo Santos, Marie Ronzitti, Lucia Vanderburg, Betty Scerbo, Philip Scerbo, Alejandra Ancheta, Cindy Popolo, Mario Banaag, Oscar Alladin, Antonio Roldan, Esperanza Galarza, Carmen Tuazon, Susan Ranola Rivera, Conrado "Boy" Tanada, John Broderick, Joanne Diaz, Ligaya Tan, Leonarda DeCarlo, Dolores Steinhauer, Eugenio Cacananta, Austin Macalintal, Eduviges Ledesma, Carolyn Taliaferro, Nonong Dava, John Gaito, Elsa Concepcion, Ricardo Vales, Virginia T. Mercurio, James Leung, Tran Phouc, Sophia Gonzalez, Jocelyn Tuazon, Florentino Chanco, Edgardo Cruz, Luchie Vivas, Deacon Nick Fargo, Mark Dudek, Eugenia Manlongat, Sandra M. Escoto.*

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#### DO YOU WANT TO HELP PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD?

If you are interested in serving our parish by proclaiming the Word of God at Sunday Mass, we invite you to learn about this special role of service by attending a workshop sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark.

The workshop, which is open to anyone at least 16 years of age, will take place Saturday morning, January 20, at the Archdiocesan Center in Newark. It will cover three areas: Scripture & Liturgy; the Role of the Lector; and Public Speaking.

All current lectors / readers of our parish who have not yet attended this Lector Workshop are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about their ministry.

We will leave OLM for the workshop at 8 am Saturday, January 20, and return by 1 pm. The parish will cover the registration fee. If you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, please contact Father Tom by calling the parish office (201-434-7500, Ext 14), emailing him at (olmchurchmail@gmail.com) or speaking to him after Mass. Don't miss this workshop. It will not be repeated until the fall of 2018.

***Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be every FIRST FRIDAY from 9:00am until 12 noon only in the Chapel.***

#### UPDATE ON CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: "WE ARE LIVING STONES"

You may recall that the Case Items for Parish Portion are the following:

- Purchase and Installation of a gas generator
- Repointing of the Church
- Replacement of windows on the school's 3rd floor
- Repairing the boiler in the school
- Debt reduction

As far as the school boiler repair is concerned, we have spent a total of \$41,675.00 for the three repairs we have done. This figure will be disbursed from the Capital Campaign, which is one of the items mentioned above. Pray, dear brothers and sisters, that there will be no more school boiler repairs in the near future. Thank you for your generosity!

#### STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

December 24, 2017	: \$ 8,687.20
Christmas 2017	: \$39,720.00
December 31, 2017	: \$ 6,954.60
New Year 2017	: \$ 4,181.00

*Thank you very much for your generous and unending support through your Stewardship of Treasure!*

#### OUR LADY OF MERCY AND AMAZON SMILE

We are rolling out a novel way of supporting Our Lady of Mercy Parish through your purchases. Please note instructions prepared by Peachy Molina, a member of our Adult Music Ministry. Please remember to:

1. Use an internet browser, not a mobile app
2. Log on to smile.amazon.com
3. Choose Our Lady of Mercy Jersey City as your charity

#### ADVERTISE YOUR COMPANY

*I appeal to those who want to advertise your company or your business to please do so. It will be a very big help to make our bulletin better (in color if possible) so we can give you more information and knowledge about all the goings-on or happenings in our communities. You can call Dave Chameides at 1-203-641-6051 or email: dchameides@4Lpi.com.*

#### HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

There will be a trip to the Holy Land in November 4-15, 2018 with Father Marty. Father Marty is thrilled to go back for another spirit-filled experience by walking in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. Please see flyers at the vestibule of the church for details.

#### OLM GIVING TREE UPDATE

The "Giving Tree" gifts were delivered on December 18th and 21st to all the charities. An enormous thanks was extended by each recipient and an expression of good tidings extended to each and everyone who gave. A joyful Merry Christmas was shouted by all, as we left your gifts for those in need.

Upwards of 275 individuals and families good the stars and left their gifts under the "Giving Tree" to be distributed to the following charities: Catholic Charities (Jersey City), Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Ann's Day Care Center, Covenant House (Newark), Broadway House (HIV / AIDS Newark), Several Sources Shelters (Unwed Mothers). The OLM Christmas tradition continues, always in an exemplary fashion. It is fitting to say "Thank you! Thank YOU!" Thank you for your goodwill to others. A special thanks is also extended to members of the Rosary Society and Holy Name Society, for their support and contribution is most essential! (Len Wodzanowski)

**IS YOUR MARRIAGE VALID?**

If you were married civilly, that is, not in the Catholic Church before a priest or deacon, it might not be a valid marriage. Some couples believe that a marriage before a Justice of the Peace or a non-Catholic minister is valid. For a marriage to be valid in the Catholic Church, the marriage must be in a Catholic Church or Chapel and officiated by an authorized Catholic priest or deacon along with 2 witnesses. (There are limited interfaith exceptions with proper permission.)

We invite you to speak with one of our priests if there are any questions or if indeed you wish to validate your marriage. The process can be very simple and your marriage will now be blessed by the Church.

**THREE QUESTIONS**

There's a tale of a traveling priest who was confronted by a soldier in pre-revolutionary Russia. Rifle in hand, the soldier barked, "Who are you? Where are you going? Why are you going there?"

Instead of answering, the priest asked how much the soldier was paid — and offered double if the soldier would challenge him with those three questions each day as he passed by.

Those three important questions can guide us on our journey through the brand-new year ahead. For Christians, thankfully, the answers are clear:

- Who are you? "I'm a child of God!"
- Where are you going? "I'm going out into the world!"
- Why are you going there? "I'm going out of love for Jesus, who died for me!"

Place these questions and answers in a spot where you can see them each day. Then go forward confidently, knowing "whose" you are and what your purpose is.

**PRAYER FOR A NEW BEGINNING**

Dear Lord, touch me with your Spirit of truth so I may be honest about my sins and failures. Forgive me for treating your covenant lightly and at times ignoring it completely. Help me truly seek and know forgiveness for all the hurts I've caused, for harboring ill will and for any hardness of heart I may have. Please renew a right spirit within me that I may become more Christ-like and that my life may daily reveal your love and light. In your name. Amen.

**BEREAVEMENT TEAM**

We are in need of volunteers to be part of Bereavement Team. For those of you who feel like you have a gift to console those who are grieving due to loss of loved ones, please step up. See Father Marty or Mr. Edwin Dava.

**2018 CALENDARS**

The Our Lady of Mercy Church 2018 Calendars are gifts from Greenville Memorial Home. We are forever grateful for Louis Squitieri, Margaret "Meg" Sweeney and Nelson Martin. Please thank them whenever you see them and keep them in your prayers.

*"Let us sing even when we do not feel like it, for in this way we give wings to heavy feet and turn weariness into strength."* —John Henry Jowett



**PUZZLE**

**A NEW CREATION**

The apostle Paul says everyone who believes in Jesus becomes brand new.

Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.

THIEROEFQORXEIDFAMNYAON  
 SEILSITNCVHRKISDTTBHEWNE  
 QWCDREYATMIOC�HFASWCOR  
 MEGTHWEOFLDXHASSGZONL  
 ETJHEWNEQWIDSHREROE

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! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

ANSWER: THEREFORE, IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST, THE NEW CREATION HAS COME: THE OLD HAS GONE, THE NEW IS HERE! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV



### Mass Intentions

#### SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

5:00pm Eugene & Eleanor Manlongat (L)  
(45th Wedding Anniversary)

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

8:00am Delia Sales r/b Nini Angeles  
10:00am Merlita Medina Ilano r/b Guiz, Gigi & Family  
12:00pm For The People  
7:00pm George Lim (L) (Birthday) r/b Lainnie & Gelayne Lim

#### MONDAY, JANUARY 8

7:00am Souls in Purgatory r/b Lena Ansano  
8:30am Nicholas De Bello r/b Jean & Al Comunale

#### TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

7:00am Avel Hong r/b Ursula Kim  
8:30am Carmela Frisina r/b Sandra Valanzola

#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

7:00am Romeo J. Rivera r/b Analyn Rivera  
8:30am Joan Fraraccio r/b Olga Fraraccio

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

7:00am Mary Lavilla r/b Kathy Oliver  
8:30am Hermenegildo Lorenzo (Death Anniversary)  
r/b Presy & Connie Lorenzo

#### FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

7:00am Romeo J. Rivera r/b Analyn Rivera  
8:30am Zygmund Kowalski (4th Death Anniversary)  
r/b Ann Kowalski

#### SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

8:30am Purgatorial Society  
5:00pm Romeo J. Rivera r/b Analyn Rivera

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

8:00am Utico Dy r/b Rollie & Diwata Macuja  
10:00am Merlita Medina Ilano r/b Raffy & Elsa Resurreccion  
12:00pm Romeo J. Rivera (1st Death Anniversary)  
r/b Analyn Rivera  
7:00pm For The People

#### BREAD & WINE:

The offering for the bread to be used this week at our Eucharistic Worship was given in memory of **The People**.

The offering for the wine to be used this week at our Eucharistic Worship was given in memory of **The People**.

#### SANCTUARY LAMPS:

The lamp burning over our tabernacle in the Church this week is offered for **Bona Kim**.

The lamp burning over our tabernacle in the Chapel this week is offered for **The People**.

### Parish Offices

#### Our Lady of Mercy Parish

40 Sullivan Drive, Jersey City, NJ 07305  
Phone: 201-434-7500  
Web: olmnj.org | Email: olmjcj@aol.com

#### Office Hours:

Monday to Friday 8:00am – 3:00pm  
Saturday 9:00am – 1:00pm

#### Pastor:

Reverend Father Marty B. Jacinto

#### Parochial Vicars:

Father Thomas Iwanowski  
Father Ranulfo D. Docabo

#### Sunday Associate:

Father Renato J. Bautista

#### Permanent Deacon:

Deacon Nick Fargo (Emeritus)  
Deacon Meynardo Espeleta

#### Pastoral Associates:

#### For Faith Formation

Regina 'Jeng' Matias-Villa

#### Director of Music Ministries:

Michael Rivera

#### Youth/Young Adult Ministries

#### Director of Youth/Young Adult Ministries:

Regina 'Jeng' Matias-Villa

#### Parish Trustees:

Presy Lorenzo  
Renato Tuazon

#### Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 5:00pm  
Sunday: 8:00am / 10:00am / 12noon / 7:00pm

#### Weekday Mass Schedule

Monday – Friday at 7:00 am and 8:30 am  
Saturday at 8:30 am

#### Reconciliation:

Saturday: 3:30pm - 4:30pm  
Anytime by appointment.

#### Ministry to the Sick and Homebound:

If you, a family member or neighbor is hospitalized and wish a visit from a Parish priest, call the Parish Office or email us at [olmjcj@aol.com](mailto:olmjcj@aol.com). The Sacrament of the Sick: Any homebound or hospitalized parishioner may request this Sacrament by calling 201-434-7500.

Visitation of the Sick: Please contact any priest, deacon or pastoral associate or call the Parish Office at 201-434-7500. Priests' Hospital Assignments: If you, a family member or neighbor are hospitalized and wish a visit from a Parish priest call or e-mail us at [olmjcj@aol.com](mailto:olmjcj@aol.com).

# Pope Francis' message for the New Year: If you want peace, start with Mary



Homily of His Holiness Pope Francis  
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

1 January 2018

The year opens in the name of the Mother. Mother of God is the most important title of Our Lady. But we might ask why we say Mother of God, and not Mother of Jesus. In the past some wanted to be content simply with the latter, but the Church has declared that Mary is the Mother of God. We should be grateful, because these words contain a magnificent truth about God and about ourselves. From the moment that our Lord became incarnate in Mary, and for all time, he took on our humanity. There is no longer God without man; the flesh Jesus took from his Mother is our own, now and for all eternity. To call Mary the Mother of God reminds us of this: God is close to humanity, even as a child is close to the mother who bears him in her womb.

The word mother (mater) is related to the word matter. In his Mother, the God of heaven, the infinite God, made himself small, he became matter, not only to be with us but also to be like us. This is the miracle, the great novelty! Man is no longer alone; no more an orphan, but forever a child. The year opens with this novelty. And we proclaim it by saying: Mother of God! Ours is the joy of knowing that our solitude has ended. It is the beauty of knowing that we are beloved children, of knowing that this childhood of ours can never be taken away from us. It is to see a reflection of ourselves in the frail and infant God resting in his mother's arms, and to realize that humanity is precious and sacred to the Lord. Henceforth, to serve human life is to serve God. All life, from life in the mother's womb to that of the elderly, the suffering and the sick, and to that of the troublesome and even repellent, is to be welcomed, loved and helped.

Let us now be guided by today's Gospel. Only one thing is said about the Mother of God: "Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Lk 2:19). She kept them. She simply kept; Mary does not speak. The Gospel does not report a single word of hers in the entire account of Christmas. Here too, the Mother is one with her Son: Jesus is an "infant", a child "unable to speak". The Word of God, who "long ago spoke in many and various ways" (Heb 1:1), now, in the "fullness of time" (Gal 4:4), is silent. The God before whom all fall silent is himself a speechless child. His Majesty is without words; his mystery of love is revealed in lowliness. This silence and lowliness is the language of his kingship. His Mother joins her Son and keeps these things in silence.

That silence tells us that, if we would "keep" ourselves, we need silence. We need to remain silent as we gaze upon the crib. Pondering the crib, we discover anew that we are loved; we savour the real meaning of life. As we look on in silence, we let Jesus speak to our heart. His lowliness lays low our pride; his poverty challenges our outward display; his tender love touches our hardened hearts. To set aside a moment of

silence each day to be with God is to "keep" our soul; it is to "keep" our freedom from being corroded by the banality of consumerism, the blare of commercials, the stream of empty words and the overpowering waves of empty chatter and loud shouting.

The Gospel goes on to say that Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. What were these things? They were joys and sorrows. On the one hand, the birth of Jesus, the love of Joseph, the visit of the shepherds, that radiant night. But on the other, an uncertain future, homelessness "because there was no place for them in the inn" (Lk 2:7), the desolation of rejection, the disappointment of having to give birth to Jesus in a stable. Hopes and worries, light and darkness: all these things dwelt in the heart of Mary. What did she do? She pondered them, that is to say she dwelt on them, with God, in her heart. She held nothing back; she locked nothing within out of self-pity or resentment. Instead, she gave everything over to God. That is how she "kept" those things. We "keep" things when we hand them over: by not letting our lives become prey to fear, distress or superstition, by not closing our hearts or trying to forget, but by turning everything into a dialogue with God. God, who keeps us in his heart, then comes to dwell in our lives.

These, then, are the secrets of the Mother of God: silently treasuring all things and bringing them to God. And this took place, the Gospel concludes, in her heart. The heart makes us look to the core of the person, his or her affections and life. At the beginning of the year, we too, as Christians on our pilgrim way, feel the need to set out anew from the centre, to leave behind the burdens of the past and to start over from the things that really matter. Today, we have before us the point of departure: the Mother of God. For Mary is exactly what God wants us to be, what he wants his Church to be: a Mother who is tender and lowly, poor in material goods and rich in love, free of sin and united to Jesus, keeping God in our hearts and our neighbour in our lives. To set out anew, let us look to our Mother. In her heart beats the heart of the Church. Today's feast tells us that if we want to go forward, we need to turn back: to begin anew from the crib, from the Mother who holds God in her arms.

Devotion to Mary is not spiritual etiquette; it is a requirement of the Christian life. Looking to the Mother, we are asked to leave behind all sorts of useless baggage and to rediscover what really matters. The gift of the Mother, the gift of every mother and every woman, is most precious for the Church, for she too is mother and woman. While a man often abstracts, affirms and imposes ideas, a woman, a mother, knows how to "keep", to put things together in her heart, to give life. If our faith is not to be reduced merely to an idea or a doctrine, all of us need a mother's heart, one which knows how to keep the tender love of God and to feel the heartbeat of all around us. May the Mother, God's finest human creation, guard and keep this year, and bring the peace of her Son to our hearts and to our world.