

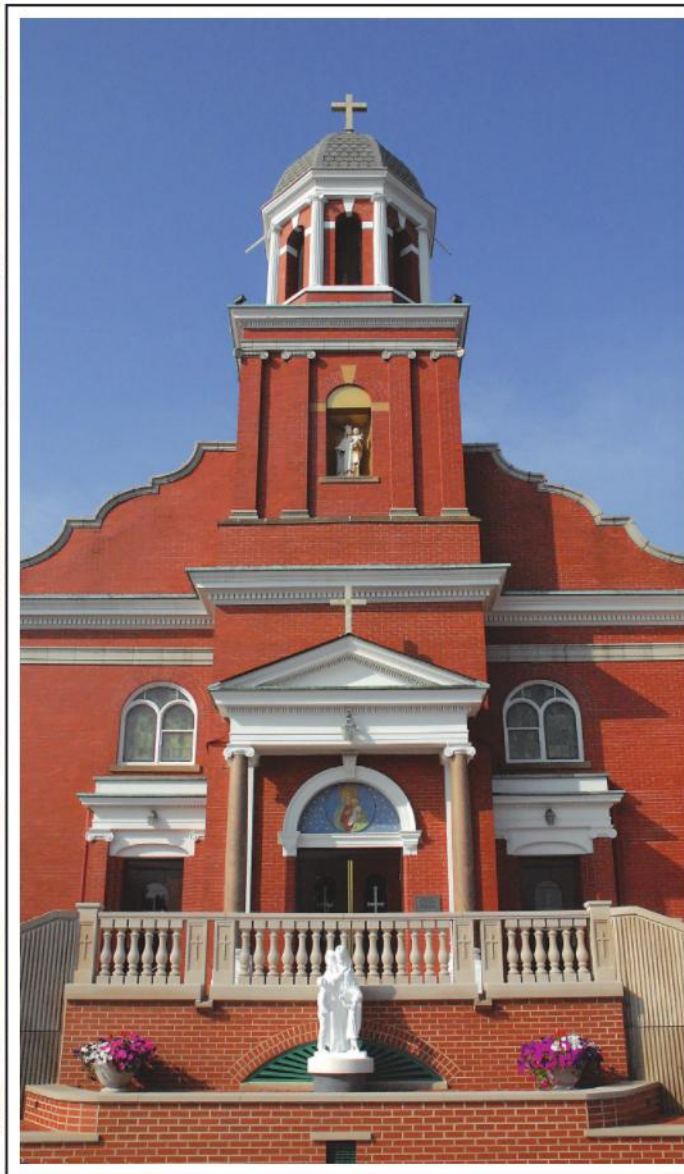
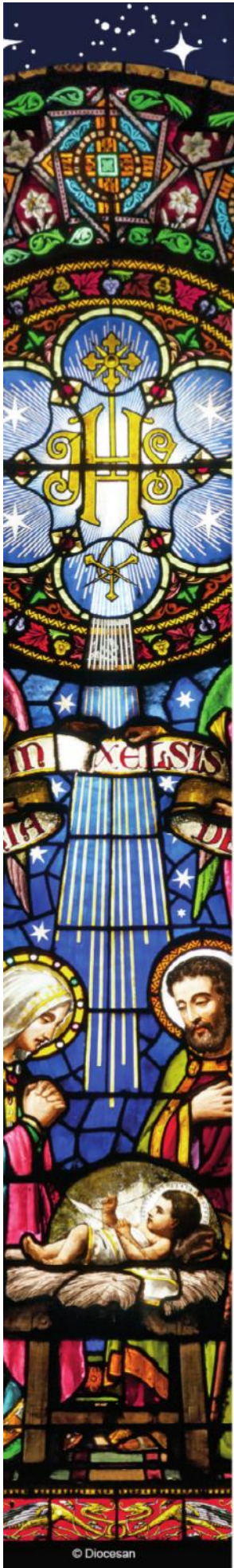
# NATIVITY OF THE LORD

And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

JOHN 1:14

## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL BASILICA

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel - St. Anthony of Padua Parish  
343 Via Mt. Carmel • Youngstown, Ohio 44505



- Pastor:  
Rev. Msgr. Michael Cariglio.....Ext. 103
- Church Phones:  
Office & Rectory.....(330) 743-4144  
Religious Education .....743-3508  
Church Hall.....743-7740  
Lower Church Hall .....Ext. 114  
Fax .....743-1035
- Church Secretaries: .....743-4144  
Office .....Ext. 100  
Mrs. Marie Ronyak .....Ext. 101  
Ms. Barbara McOwen.....Ext. 141  
Mrs. Cathy Zack .....Ext. 100
- Office Hours: Mon. thru Fri. ....8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Permanent Deacons: .....743-4144  
Mr. Anthony Falasca, Jr.....Ext. 142  
Mr. Mark Izzo.....330-533-1857
- Director of Music: .....743-4144  
Mr. Craig Ziobert .....(330) 770-6504
- Director of Religious Education:  
Mrs. Therese Ivanisin.....Ext. 121  
olmcTherese@gmail.com or 330-743-3508  
Youth Ministry Coordinator, Melissa Varso .....Ext. 122  
olmcMelissa@gmail.com
- Church Caterer: .....743-7740  
Mr. Louis Fusillo .....Ext. 131  
or 759-4010 (H)
- Parish Council Chairperson: .....743-4144  
Mr. Louis Fusillo .....Ext. 143
- Business Manager/Accountant:  
Mr. John Didek, Jr.....Ext. 100
- Sunday Masses:  
Saturday Evening .....5:00 p.m.  
Sunday .....9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
- Weekday Mass: .....Daily at 12:00 noon
- Baptisms: Saturday after the 5:00 p.m. Mass  
and Sunday after the 11:00 a.m. Mass.
- Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 11:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
or by personal request.
- Weddings: Please schedule marriage at least 6 months  
in advance.
- E-mail: olmc343@aol.com  
Website: www.ladymtcarmel.com





*The Road to Christmas*

- Sat., Dec. 21:** *St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church*  
 12:00 p.m. Edwin Muccillo by Family  
 5:00 p.m. Joseph F. Ricciuti (WA) by Mary Ann
- Sun., Dec. 22:** *Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
 9:00 a.m. Angela Weimer by Mom & Dad  
 11:00 a.m. Special Intention
- Mon. Dec. 23:**  
 12:00 noon Gary Toth by Stephanie & Douglas Gabbard
- Tues., Dec. 24:** *Christmas Eve*  
 5:00 p.m. D'Amico & Palomara Families by D'Amico Family  
 12Midnight Frank Ferraro (A) by Ange & Irene
- Weds., Dec. 25:** *The Nativity of the Lord-Christmas*  
 11:00 a.m. Joseph "Pepper" Caruso by Family Carella & Caravella Families by Carella & Caravella Families
- Thurs. Dec. 26:** *St. Stephen, The First Martyr*  
 12:00 noon Christopher McDanel (A) by Mother & Father
- Fri. Dec. 27:** *St. John, Apostle and Evangelist*  
 12:00 noon Mr. and Mrs. Gene Panozzo by Maria Panozzo
- Sat., Dec. 28:** *The Holy Innocents*  
 12:00 p.m. Joseph F. Ricciuti by Wife, Mary Ann  
 2:00 p.m. Wedding of Emily Shipley & Simon Sedmak  
 5:00 p.m. Dorothy Colucci by Husband & Children
- Sun., Dec. 29:** *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph*  
 9:00 a.m. Michael Castronova by Anita & Family



*Gifts for God*

<b>Sunday, December 15 (246 envelopes)</b>	<b>\$8,275.70</b>
<b>St. Anthony Shrine/Novena</b>	<b>\$ 268.00</b>
<b>Immaculate Conception</b>	<b>\$ 176.00</b>

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Basilica**

**Christmas Eve: Tuesday, December 24, 2019**

**5:00 p.m. & 12 Midnight Mass**

**Christmas Day: Wednesday, December 25, 2019**

**11:00 a.m. Mass**

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

**St. Anthony of Padua Church**

**Christmas Eve Mass: 4:00 p.m.**

**WEEKEND ASSIGNMENTS (December 28/29)**

**Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**

- 5:00 p.m. Deacon Mark Izzo, Fran Klanica, Joseph Caruso, Jr.  
 9:00 a.m. Deacon Mark Izzo, Patty Dawson, Robert Giampetro  
 11:00 a.m. Stephanie Chimento, Tiffany Chimento, Tom DeToro



**Lectors**

- 5:00 p.m. Ron DiBacco  
 9:00 a.m. Darlene Sabo  
 11:00 a.m. Alfred DeChurch



**Altar Servers**

- 5:00 p.m. Lauren Klanica, Gregory Carbon, Antonio Peachock  
 9:00 a.m. Alex Carano, Adrianna Marsco, Luciano Marsco  
 11:00 noon Scott Cross, Gabriella Weese, Thomas Amon, Nicholas Amon

**AN INVITATION**

Yes, I will spend ONE HOUR WEEKLY with *Jesus*, present in **THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT.**

Please check the time you prefer:

- \_\_\_ MORNING (6:00 a.m. to noon)  
 \_\_\_ AFTERNOON (12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)  
 \_\_\_ EVENING (6:00 p.m. to Midnight)  
 \_\_\_ NIGHT (midnight to 6:00 a.m.)



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like to *promote* this most important prayer Apostolate

**Cut & drop in collection basket or mail to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Basilica.**

**Call Maria Panozzo at 330-372-5141 or Jean, 330-758-3335 to schedule your time to be with Jesus.**

Come! Spend one hour per week with Jesus in Adoration, Praise and Thanksgiving for his many graces.

**Hours needed:**

**Sat. 2 - 3 p.m., 10 - 11p.m. & Midnight - 1 a.m.**

**Sun. 2 p.m. - 3 a.m., 3 a.m. - 4 a.m., & 4 a.m. - 5 a.m.**

**Tues. 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Wed. 3 p.m. - 4 p.m., 2 a.m. - 3 a.m., 3 a.m. - 4 a.m. & 4 a.m. - 5 a.m.**

**Thurs. 8 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

**Fri. 2 p.m. - 3 p.m., 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.**

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

The families of the following parishioners have requested that we remember them in prayer: Carl, Johnny, William, Martha Aliberti, Regina Altiero, Melinda Amon, Genevieve Angelides, Peter Angelides, Baby Audrey Elaine Aaron, Sandy Battaglia, Madelyn Brudis, Tina Bury, Zayne Bryce, Isabelle Corradi, Jeanni Pesa, Carmen, Kim Bowser, Marko Calko, Dominic Calko, Lori Capone, Michael (Cal) Calipare, Carl J. Carbon, Roseann Cencia, Joseph Cencia, Bethany Maytas, Anthony, Cathy Chimento, Joseph Chimento, Stephanie Chimento, Christopher Centofanti, Damian Chordas, Joseph R.Cioffi, Mary Rose Colucci, Johnny D., Ed Derek, Joanne Desko, Michelina DiVito, Greg Diorio, Grace Ducay, Angela Elmo, JoAnn Elmo, Roberta Elmo, Dolores Elston, Deacon Anthony Falasca, Jason, Monroe, Mara Frease, Ilona Gerson, Sebastian Green, Margie, Joseph Haus, Baby Henry, John, Reese, Lisa, Joshua, David, Carl Jr., Louise Faustino, Kaylee, JoAnn George, Emily Gerome, Rose Giampetro, Donald "Duke" Girardi, Dominic Greco, Josie Greco, Jennifer Greco, Michael & Carol Gromada, Carmella Guy, Claudia Hernandez, Sean Holden, Gail Hubbert, George Iati, Loretta Julian, Mark Julian, Kerri, Glory & Family, Jeff Knorr, Dennis Kopnisky, Jackie Golden, Gerard Kopnisky, Hillary, William & Melinda Kopnisky, Agnes Kowis, Rocco Kovacs, Francine Kraiosky, John Kuzman, Jr., Leann P., Lenny & Cheryl, Lavonne, Lucille, Linda Maiorana, Baby Dominic Malachi, Bill Marcavish, Missy Marrie, John Mascardine, Jennifer McCon, Paul and Greg Medina, Jean Medina, Livia Marinelli, Ellen Monroe, Francisco Rivera-Ocasio, George Panno, Beverly Poidmore Pariza, Mary Pesa, Ronald Pesa, Phil Pillin, Sr. Brielle, Vincent, Paul III, Giovanna Pace, Isabel Pupino, Joseph Pizzola, Nicholas Poccia, Charles Richards, Joseph Richards, Joseph Ridel, Chris Ritter, Rose Ruggieri, Marti Runyan, Mark Roberts, Ben Russo, William Santangelo, Millie Santangelo, Patty Schuley, Carmel Scocca, Mary Strauss, Ellie Sullenberger, Chris Sultan, Betty & Dennis VanSuch, Greg VanSuch, Jodi Walters, Dave Weikart, Kathleen Wienand, Anna Mae Williams, Lilah Dovie, Todd Zamy, Skevos Zimbillas, **Mary, help of the sick, pray for us!**—Please let us know when person is well.

**Prayer Petitions**

It is in spirit of love, care, and support for one another that we invite you to place your prayer petitions into the Petition Box. The box and blank petition slips are available to you in the vestibule before each weekend Mass. The petitions are remembered during the Prayer of the Faithful and are brought forward during the Offertory Procession and placed at the foot of the Cross. At the conclusion of the Sunday Masses, the petitions are brought to the Little Flower Eucharistic Chapel where, throughout the week, members of the Apostolate for Perpetual Adoration unite their prayers with yours in the presence to our Eucharistic Lord. Let us unite our prayers with one another as we follow St. Paul's instruction to "pray without ceasing" and support one another through mutual prayer, solidarity, and love.

**REGISTRATION:** Members of the parish must be formally registered. If you are not receiving Our Lady of Mount Carmel envelopes, this means you are not registered. Call the rectory at 330-743-4144, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.—3 p.m. And we will send you a registration form. **Families who have members of our church staying with them who are shut-ins or who are in nursing homes should include them as members of their household. For a change of address or telephone number, please call the rectory as soon as possible. Thank you.**



The Week Ahead

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

**ST. ANTHONY LIGHT: December 22-28**

In memory of AMANDA MARIE FERRARO by Family

**BLESSED SACRAMENT LIGHT: December 22-28**

In memory of OLIVER MONACO & SON, BRIAN by Wife & Family

**SACRED HEART LIGHT: December 22-28**

In memory of PATSY DELSIGNORE (B) by Bill & Angela

**OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL LIGHT: December 22-28**

In memory of KRAMER & HOELZEL FAMILIES by Family

**SANCTUARY LIGHT: December 22-28**

In memory of QUINTILIANO & JENNIE FIORE (B) by Norma & Mike

**GUARDIAN ANGEL LIGHT: December 22-28**

In memory of SAM BERONJA by Daughters, Debbie, Terry & Sandy

**INFANT JESUS LIGHT: December 22-28**

In memory of DOROTHY COLUCCI by Husband & Children

**ST. THERESA OF THE LITTLE FLOWER: December 22-28**

In memory of CISCON & DESIMONE FAMILY by Ann Desimone

**HOLY CROSS LIGHTS: Sunday, December 22**

In memory of BOB ZACK by Wife, Cathy & Family

**HOLY CROSS LIGHTS: Monday, December 23**

In memory of RALPH RANALLI by Wife, Claudia, Son, Pat, Daughter Angela Duncan & Rose Weese & Families

**HOLY CROSS LIGHTS: Tuesday, December 24**

In memory of JACK & JIM LALUMIA by Daughters & Sisters

**HOLY CROSS LIGHTS: Wednesday, December 25**

In memory of MARY MIKULA by Chelsey Santucci

**ETERNAL FLAME: Sunday, December 22**

In memory of FRANK & HELEN PUGLIESE by Bob, Bonnie, Nicole, Zack, Dena, Matt, Caleb & Cindy

**ETERNAL FLAME: Monday, December 23**

In memory of WALTER E. GOOD by Parish Family

**ETERNAL FLAME: Tuesday, December 24**

In memory of ELIA CIANCONE by Parish Family

**ETERNAL FLAME: Wednesday, December 25**

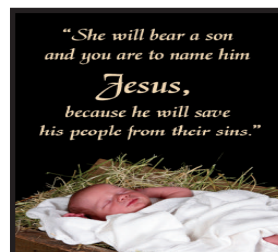
In memory of AMERICO CIANCONE by Parish Family

**ETERNAL FLAME: Thursday, December 26**

In memory of RICHARD CIANCONE by Parish Family

**ETERNAL FLAME: Friday, December 27**

In memory of ERNST SARBAUGH by Very Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Cariglio, Jr.





### **Birthdays for the week of December 22-28**

Shirley DePietro, Barbara Leone, Chelana Maggs, Cathy Mastopietro, Matthew Hagerty, Carmella Crump, John Gresko, III, Marco Mediati III, Michael Schiraldi, Thomas Strauss, Matthew Saborse, Holly Testa, Mary Ziobert, Elizabeth DeGidio, Natalie DiFrangia, Lindsay Martin, Rose Pugliese, Wilfred Reyes, Anthony Calucchia, Brian Delia, Catherine Flickinger, Anthony Franceshelli, Thomas Kushner, Vonda Palcisco, Katrina Wolfe, Elizabeth Zorella, Norma Baca, Chet Flickinger, Terry Fullum, Ida Fusillo, Lisa Parish, Gia Patrone, Angeline Romito, Cheryl Saculla.

### **INTERCESSION:**

That as Joseph and Mary welcomed the gift of the Child Jesus, all mothers and fathers will prayerfully foster each of their children's vocations in Christ and especially welcome His call for priests, deacons, brothers and sisters,

**We pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer.**

“When Joseph awoke he did as the angel of the Lord directed him.” Are you prayerfully vigilant listening to the voice of God so that you may discover your vocation in Christ? Might He be inviting you to the priesthood, diaconate, or consecrated life? Contact Fr. Christopher Luoni @330-744-8451, or by email at: cluoni@youngstowndiocese.org.

### **MARRIAGE MOMENTS**

In the northern hemisphere, Christmas coincides with the longest nights of the year. Let darkness be your friend. Pause with your honey amidst your busy preparations to go outside (even in the cold) and look at the sky. Ponder your smallness in this universe, but also the warmth of your love for each other.

**Families of Baby Loss**—Have you or someone you know suffered the death of a baby at any stage of pregnancy or beyond? Some families suffer in silence. Help us find these families. We would like to remember these babies and their families by giving them an angel ornament this Christmas Season. Ornaments can be picked up before or after Mass on December 21/22 or December 24/25. Text or call Sharon Cross @ 330-360-7261 with name and best Mass time for pickup or for any additional information.

### **St. Anthony Shrine and Novena**

#### **\$25.00 GIFT**

In memory of PEPPER (DAD) CARUSO by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Caruso

#### **\$20.00 GIFT**

In memory of LORIANN CARNEVALE by Sister, Angela  
In memory of BEBE MARSCO & TONY YORK  
by Anita & Nickie

In loving memory of MARY ANN PELLEGRINI by Cleto

In loving memory of ARMOND ROSSI by Wife, Alice

In memory of JACK AND JOANN ZIEMIANSKI

by Sister, Marie & Phil

In loving memory of JOHN MONROE, SR—HUSBAND,  
DOMINIC MONROE—SON by Ann Monroe

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore F. McCoy

#### **\$16.00 GIFT**

Ms. Dena Tufaro

#### **\$15.00 GIFT**

In loving memory of CARELLA FAMILY, RALPH SR.,  
JOSEPHINE, RALPH JR., NANCY, MELISSA & FRANK  
CARAVELLA by Thomas/Joanne Caravella

#### **\$10.00 GIFT**

In loving memory of PHILOMENA BONACE

by Daughter, Sandi

In loving memory of Father, PAUL CROWLEY (A) by

Daughter, Patricia Tiratto

In memory of JOSEPH SANDULLO by Wife, Terri

Mr. & Mrs. William D. DiFrangia

Mrs. Grace Ducaj

Mr. Scott R. Schulick



Cari Auguri di Buon Natale 2019

E u Buon Anno 2020

Gil auguri piu cari per un Natale e un Buon Anno 2020, pleni di tutte le belle cose che portano questi giorni. Di grazie, Msgr. Michael J. Cariglio, Jr.—Rector/Pastor, Deacon Anthony Falasca,—Deacon, Deacon Mark Izzo—Deacon.



**OSTIA:** is again available this Christmas Season in the rectory.

There is no need to call ahead, just stop at the rectory between 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to purchase at \$6.00 per box of (50).

#### **HOST:**

1 cup lukewarm water

1 cup flour

1 tsp + few drops of oil

Dash of Salt

Beat mixture for 5 minutes. Let stand 5 hours, stirring every half hour.

(This recipe is for use with an Ostia maker and if none is available, you may purchase the Ostia at the rectory).

#### **FILLING:**

1 Bag of Hershey Kisses or 1 large Hershey Bar

1/2-3/4 lb. skinned almonds

1 pint of honey

#### **OPTIONAL:**

Orange extract, grated orange rind or vanilla. Melt chocolate in double boiler or microwave. Add honey at the same time. When all is melted, add chopped almonds and flavoring. Remove from heat and fill host.





**CRAIG'S CORNER**

**A Note**

**from our Music Director**

The Fourth Sunday and week of Advent always seem as if they just pass the time before Christmas falling later on in the same week. However, that does not nullify its significance. This weekend's first reading and Gospel center on Christ as our Emmanuel and the most important significance of the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Christmas event from the prophecy to the account in the Gospel of Mary's "yes" to God with the support of Joseph. We must celebrate this before we can see the full glory of Christmas later this week. Our opening and offertory hymns for our Fourth Sunday of Advent draw particular attention to the role of the Blessed Virgin in the Advent and soon-to-be Christmas celebrations.

The choir hymn at the 11AM Mass this weekend, *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* (Hymn tune: "Es ist ein Ros' entsbrungen") is often a hymn which bridges the two seasons of Advent and Christmas together using Mary as the figure who connects the two seasons. The hymn expresses and acknowledges a particular tension we ought to be aware of during the Christmas season. Just as we hear in Advent in the prophecies from Isaiah, a "rose," or stem, shoots up from the stump, so too do we celebrate Christ's birth in the knowledge that He brings life out of death. Our celebrations of Christmas must always point us to Easter. We celebrate Christ's life because His death brings us a new kind of life. So too, the season of Advent points us not only to Christmas, but to the second coming of Christ, when He will finally make all things new. With the days getting shorter as we have journeyed through Advent this December, we lit more candles on the Advent wreath. It is my hope that the light of all four candles now lit on the Advent wreath lighten your lives as the days now get longer outside and we enter the Christmas season celebrating the true light of the world being born.

**Instrumental Music Selections for December 21-22:  
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Postlude: Chorale Prelude on 'Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen' Op. 122 – Johannes Brahms

**Instrumental Music Selections for December 24-25:  
The Nativity of the Lord**

Postlude: Carillon on a Ukrainian Bell Carol – Gerald Near



Need a Christmas Gift? **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Traditions Cookbook** are at the rectory for \$18.00. These make nice Christmas gifts!

**DAILY OFFERING PRAYER**

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month.

**HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER**

**The Future of the Very Young.** That every country takes the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT:**

*"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home."  
Matthew 1:24*

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

**INTERCESSION FOR VOCATIONS:**

For a deeper trust and docility to the Holy spirit among persons discerning a call to serve Christ as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life,

**We pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer.**

**REMEMBER US LAST:**

When you are preparing your will and estate plan remember those closest to you...spouse, family members and loved ones. Then remember Our Lady of Mount Carmel Basilica with a residual gift that defines your Legacy of Faith as a member of our parish community. Please call 330-744-8451, ext. 325 for information.

**Sponsor of the week:**

	<b>BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY</b> <small>HomeServices</small>	<b>David Ronyak</b> REALTOR®
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**LivingwithChrist      2019 ~ 2020**

**Sunday Missal and Sunday Missal for Young Catholics**

They are now available in the vestibule of the church. Please feel free to take one for your family or child. It is a great resource for all ages. Both provides opportunities for reading, reflecting and following the weekly Mass readings.

The Missal for Young Catholics has additional resources such as traditional prayers for saints, family and ideas of how to live out the Sunday readings all week. Good until November 2020.



**First Reconciliation & Communion Preparation**

Catholic School Families and Parish Families if your child is 7yrs old or in the 2nd grade and is ready to prepare for Reconciliation and Communion please call to register them. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel needs to know where your child will be preparing and receiving. If you missed the parent meeting please call Therese. We begin our gatherings in January.

**Acolytes**

When we serve God in church, we learn how to serve God outside of church; by helping people who are in need, by taking care of each other and the earth that we live on, by loving people that no one else loves.

That's how we really serve God.

\*\*\*\*\*

Parents, is your 5th grade or older, son or daughter interested in becoming an Acolyte? Do they show an interest in wanting to become involved in helping serve at Mass? Are they asking why their friends or sometimes an adult is helping Monsignor with Mass? Have they asked, "How can I help?" Now is the time to step forward and let us know they are interested.

Questions or interested in serving contact: 330-743-4144

Monsignor, Mrs. Ivanisin, Deacon Anthony or Deacon Mark  
Training will be held in January.



**Prepare....**

What needs to be removed from your heart to prepare a home for Jesus?

**Hope....**

How can you bear fruit as you prepare the way of the Lord?



**Rejoice....** What can you do to bring Jesus into your life and the lives of those around you?

**"Obedience of faith" ...**

What does the Lord ask of you?



**Acolyte  
Ministry**

**Contact Information for Faith Formation \* Sacramental Preparation \* Rite of Christian Initiation \* Liturgical Ministers**

330-743-3508    www.olmcsta.com    FAX: 330-743-1035    (Out of the office on Monday)

**Director: Therese M. Ivanisin / Mrs. I**

**Coordinator of Youth Ministry: Melissa Varso**

**Youth Ministry Team**

OLMCTherese@gmail.com ext 121

OLMCMelissa@gmail.com ext 122

Nick Capone & Bobby Mangiarelli



# Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-14  
Ps 24:(7c,10b)1-6  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-24

**Monday December 23**  
Malachi 3:1-4,23-24  
Ps 25:4-5ab,8-10,14  
Luke 1:57-66

**Tuesday December 24**  
2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16  
Ps 89:2-5,27,29  
Luke 1:67-79

**Wednesday December 25**  
**Christmas Day**  
Isaiah 52:7-10  
Ps 98:1-6  
Hebrews 1:1-6  
John 1:1-18

**Thursday December 26**  
**St. Stephen**  
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59  
Ps 31:3cd-4,6,8ab,16bc,17  
Matthew 10:17-22

**Friday December 27**  
St. John, Apostle  
1 John 1:1-4  
Ps 97:1-2,5-6,11-12  
John 20:1a,2-8

**Saturday December 28**  
**Holy Innocents**  
1 John 1:5-2:2  
Ps 124:2-5,7b-8  
Matthew 2:13-18

Love is the theme of the Fourth Sunday of Advent. A good definition of love is in the name that we see in the first reading and again when the prophecy is fulfilled in the Gospel reading: Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." To have love is to have "God with us". To give love is to give God who is with us.

Have you ever felt like you've run out of love to give? Well, that's quite impossible! We might run out of patience; we might get tired of giving more love than we receive from others, but God who is love is always with us.

When we feel empty from loving someone who doesn't equally love us back, or when we reach the point of despising someone who repeatedly hurts us, this is when we need to ask God for a supernatural ability to love with his love. This prayer always works! It's how we become effective evangelizers as distributors of his love.

When we give God's love to those who are unpleasant to love, we're revealing to them God who is with us.

We all have people in our lives who fail to be Christ to us. They don't love us like God wants them to love us. So we need to remind ourselves that our happiness is not dependent upon how they treat us. God is with us! We need to call upon Emmanuel. God who is with us



loves us fully and unconditionally, whether or not we deserve it.

When we're looking for others to love us more than they do, we feel unloved, but if we

keep our eyes on Jesus, his love fills all the gaps.

Emmanuel. It's a name for Jesus that we should use year-round.

As you finish preparing for the celebration of Christmas, focus on Emmanuel. Sing to Emmanuel. Pray to Emmanuel. This sign, this reminder, this name is God's personal Christmas gift to you.

### Reflect & Discuss:

1. Are you loved enough?
2. What will you do this week to become more aware of God's love for you?
3. As a spiritual exercise, go to the nativity display at church. Write on a small piece of paper the names of those who fail to love you sufficiently. Place it in the manger and, if it has straw or hay, take a piece of it (or take a flower petal or leaf from a nearby plant) as a reminder that Emmanuel was born to give you more than enough love.
4. What is the best Christmas gift you've ever received from God? Why did it make you feel loved?



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