

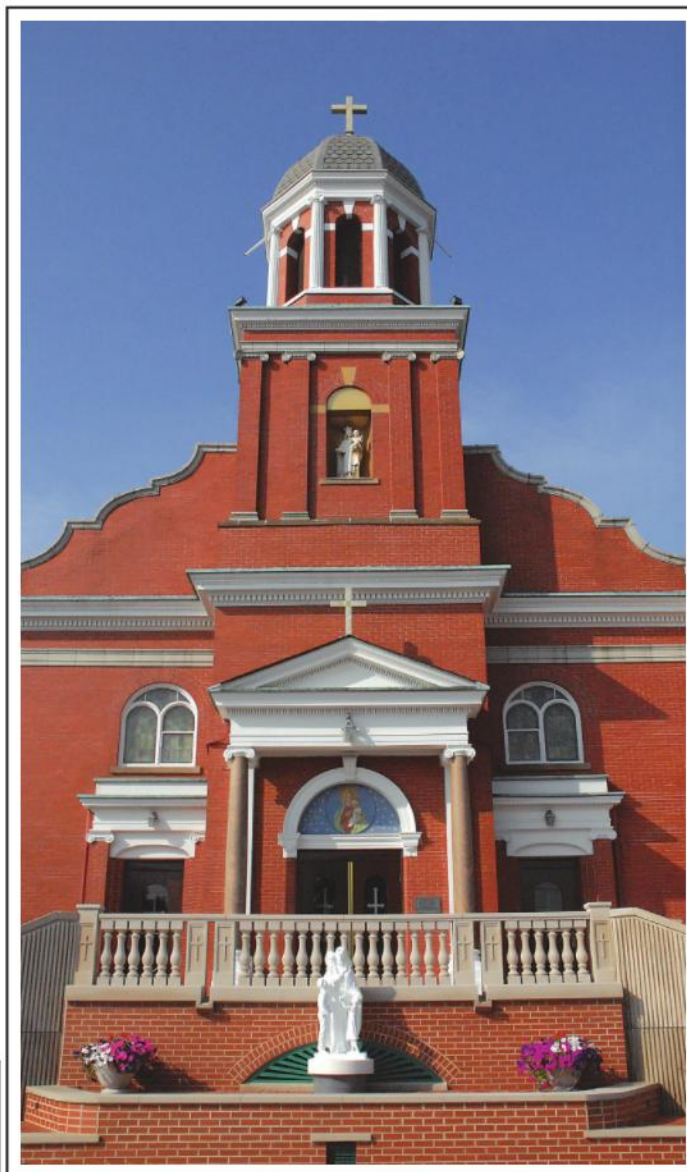
33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

And then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in the clouds'
with great power and glory...

Mt 13:26

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 Education743-3508
Church Hall743-7740
Lower Church Hall.....Ext. 114
Fax.....743-1035

Church Secretaries:.....743-4144

OfficeExt. 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, JrExt. 142
Mr. Mark Izzo.....(330) 533-1857

Director of Music:.....743-4144

Mr. Nick Mattiussi(330) 550-9283

Office of Religious Education:

Coordinator of Religious Education
Mrs. Leanna Pipala Ext. 121
Assistant Coordinator of Religious Education
Therese Ivanisin..... Ext. 122

Church Caterer:

Mr. Mark Fusillo

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.OLMCSTA.com



*Masses
For The Week*

Sat., Nov. 13: *St. Frances Xavier Cabrini*
12:00 noon Sophia Schiavoni by Loretta, Brian, Kiera, & Carson Quinn
5:00 p.m. Deacon Joseph S. Nohra (B) by Family

Sun., Nov. 14: *Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*
9:00 a.m. Carolina Esposito by Husband & Children
11:00 a.m. Melissa Ann Carella by Carella & Caravella Family

Mon. Nov. 15: *St. Albert the Great*
12:00 noon Grace Russo by Clara Izzo

Tues., Nov. 16: *St. Margaret of Scotland & St. Gertrude*
12:00 noon Clara Paschal by Phyllis Chila

Weds., Nov. 17: *St. Elizabeth of Hungary*
12:00 noon Flora Cafaro (A) by Cafaro Family

Thurs., Nov. 18: *Dedication of the Basilica of SS. Peter & Paul, Apostles, St. Rose Philippine Duchesne*
12:00 noon Mary Nicolli by Family

Fri., Nov. 19:
12:00 noon Nicolette Smith (Living) by Grandmother, Barbara Sarko *Blessed Virgin Mary*

Sat., Nov. 20:
12:00 noon Joseph F. Ricciuti (A) by Mary Ann Ricciuti & Family
2:00 p.m. Wedding of Ashley Saadey & Michael Rich
5:00 p.m. Grace F. & James A. Orlando by Family

Sun., Nov. 21: *Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe*
9:00 a.m. Eleanor Tauro by Sandy & Natalie Triyeri
11:00 a.m. Silvestri & Orlando Family by Tony & Lisa

**WEEKEND ASSIGNMENTS—November 20/21
Ordinary-Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**

5:00 p.m. Fran Klanica
9:00 a.m. Robert Giampietro
11:00 a.m. Deacon Anthony Mark Izzo, Joseph Nohra, Jr.

LECTORS

5:00 p.m. Cathy Mastropietro
9:00 a.m. Michele Berardi
11:00a.m. Guiliana Sebastiani

ALTAR SERVERS

5:00 p.m. Gianna Howe, Gabriella Howe, Jeffrey Howe
9:00 a.m. Francisco Rivera-Ocasio, Santino Rivera-Ocasio
11:00 a.m. Luke Pipala, Zachary Pipala, John Paul Pipala

Friday The Day Christ died for us

Every Friday the Basilica will broadcast for the homebound the following spiritual exercises on Face Book:

**12 noon Daily Mass
3:00 p.m.. The Hour of Divine Mercy with
The Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction**



Parish Support

November 7 (287 envelopes)	\$10,234.00
St. Anthony Shrine	\$ 340.00
All Saints	\$ 567.00
All Souls	\$ 1,272.00

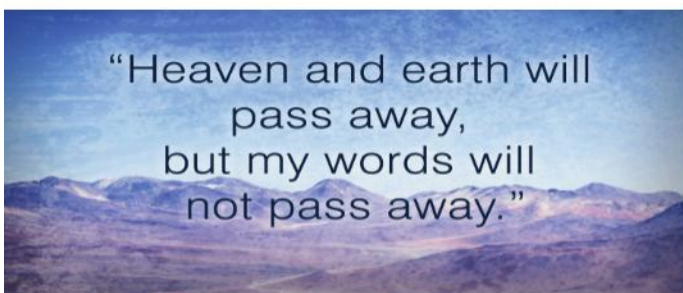
Grazie!!

**The Hour
for the whole
World!**

"At three o'clock, implore My mercy, especially for poor sinners; and, if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony. This is the hour of great mercy for the whole world. I will allow you to enter into My mortal sorrow. In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion..." (Diary, 1320)

**3 p.m.
of Mercy**

**Of the Most Blessed Sacrament.
Basilica is open for in person worship during the
above times. Welcome!**



THIRTY- THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Earl Ducay, Martha Aliberti, Regina Altiero, Melinda Amon, Peter Angelides, Karen Banic, Dorothy Barbato, Tina Batcha, Fred Batcha, Sandy Battaglia, John Beene, Madelyn Brudis, Zayne Bryce, Michelle Colantuoni, Isabelle Corradi, Kim Brauer, Richard Brauer, Marko Calko, Dominic Calko, Janice Marinelli Campbell, Lori Capone, Michael (Cal) Calipare, Carl J. Carbon, Roseann Cencia, Joseph Cencia, Anthony, Cathy Chimento, Joseph Chimento, Stephanie Chimento, Christopher Centofanti, Damian Chordas, Joseph R. Cioffi, , Mary Rose Colucci, Alfred and Phyllis DeChurch, Johnny D., Ed Derek, John Didek, Anna DeLuco, Michelina DiVito, Greg Diorio, Grace Ducay, Roberta Elmo, Dolores Elston, Deacon Anthony Falsca, Gina Fecko, Jason, Monroe, Mara Frease, Sebastian Green, Margie, Joseph Haus, John, Reese, Lisa, Joshua, David, Carl Jr., Kaylee, JoAnn George, Emily Gerome, Rose Giampetro, Donald "Duke" Girardi, Dante Greco, Dominic Greco, Josie Greco, Jennifer Greco, Michael & Carol Gromada, Claudia Hernandez, Nicholas Hideg, Gail Hubbert, George Iati, Loretta Julian, Mark Julian, Kerri, Glory & Family, Jeff Knorr, Jackie Golden, Gerard Kopnisky, Hillary, William & Melinda Kopnisky, Agnes Kowis, Rocco Kovacs, Cheryl Maniccia, Allan Maniccia, Bill Marcavish, Shirley Marchi, John Mascardine, Judi Mascardine, Jennifer McCon, Paul and Greg Medina, Jean Medina, Livia Marinelli, Ellen Monroe, Beverly Poidmore Pariza, Mary Pesa, Ronald Pesa, Phil Pillin, Brielle, Vincent, Paul III, Giovanna Pace, Isabel Pupino, Joseph Pizzola, Charles Richards, Joseph Richards, Chris Ritter, Gerald Rivello, Scott Rodgers, Marti Runyan, Mark Roberts, Richard Rouan, Ben Russo, Chuck Salina, Mark Stilson, Carmel Scocca, Ed Sproviero, Ellie Sullenberger, Chris Sultan, Greg VanSuch, Paula VanNest, Rita Varacali, Valerie Villani, Jodi Walters, Kathleen Wienand, Katherine Wolf, Todd Zamary, Skevos Zimbillas.

Mary, Help of the sick, pray for us! Please let us know when the person is well. Thanks be to God.

DAILY MORNING OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, though 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.

PEOPLE WHO SUFFER FROM DEPRESSION. We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

St. Anthony Shrine and Novena

\$50.00 GIFT

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Napoli

\$20.00 GIFT

In memory of AL BACA, ROSEANN BACA, ROSEMARIE FIORE by Michael Baca

In memory of FRANCIS A. BELLINO by Virginia Bellino

In memory of TOM CARAVELLA & NANCY & RALPH CARELLA by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bury

In memory of the CARNEVALE & FALABELLA FAMILIES by Angela Carnevale

In memory of BEBE MARSCO

by Mom, Anita & Sister, Nickie Marsco

In loving memory of MARY ANN PELLEGRINI by Cleto

In memory of RALPH RANALLI by Pat & Claudia Ranalli

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Crissimi

Phyllis Chila

\$15.00 GIFT

Mrs. Diane M. Sheets

\$10.00 GIFT

In memory of ELIZABETH & JOSEPH CAVALLARO by Son, R.J.

In memory of FUMI & MARSCO FAMILIES

by Anita & Nickie Marssco

For a very SPECIAL INTENTION by Len & Mary Perry

Mr. Dominic Colucci

Mr. Robert S. Gibbs, Sr.

Mrs. Robert A. Pernotto

Miss Dorothy Varie

CAVALIERI REALE, Northeast Ohio's Favorite Dance Band Sunday, November 21, 2021

5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

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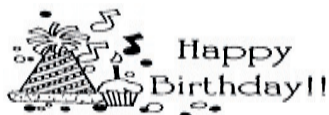
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Note:

If anyone knows of a person that is homebound and or in a nursing home, please call the rectory @ 330-743-4144 and let us know so we can update our records. Thank You.

REGISTRATION:

Members of the parish should be formally registered. If you are not receiving Our Lady of Mt. Carmel envelopes, please call the rectory Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m. For a change of address or telephone number, please call the rectory at 330-743-4144.



Birthdays for the week of November 14-20

Theresa Aaron, Michael Cannone, Melissa Cox, Sarah Floor, Anthony Grande, Melina Orr, Madeline Pagano, JoAnn Scavotto, Leo Schiraldi, Jeanette Trell, Helen Aiello, Kate-lyn Casacchia, Aubrey Donnadio, Diane Garthwaite, Vincent Malkovits, Carmen Peachock, Beatrice Sebastiani, Nicolette Bleacher, Patricia Butto, Stefano Cocca, Melissa Donnadio, Cheryl Maniccia, Joseph Pizzola, Marisa Schifferli, Dolores Sebastiano, Robert Severino, Grace Traficant, Joseph Amon, Kim Brauer, Sammy Farinelli, Renee Pilolli, Luke Wagner, Randall Antonucci, Miriam Baglier, Thomas Calko, Angeline Ferraro, Brittany Miketa, Vincent Pilolli, Jr., Jonathan Bunamici, Alfred DeChurch, Diane DeLuco, Louis DeVicchio, Maria Shaw, Andrea Tharp, Gabriel Bott, Salvatore Buonamici, JoAnn Colaluca, Janice Harrison.



ST. ANTHONY LIGHT: November 14-20

In memory of FILOMENA & MIKE FELICE (A) by Daughter and Son-in-law, Janie & John Torek

SACRED HEART LIGHT: November 14-20
FOR SPECIAL INTENTION

INFANT JESUS LIGHT: November 14-20

In memory of GRACE F. & JAMES A. ORLANDO by Family

GUARDIAN ANGEL LIGHT: November 14-20

In memory of CONCETTA LARICCIA by John & Carol Amicone

ETERNAL FLAME: Sunday, November 14

In memory of CLARA MALUSO by Parish Family

ETERNAL FLAME: Monday, November 15

In memory of NICHOLAS A. POCCIA by Parish Family

ETERNAL FLAME: Tuesday, November 16

In memory of ANTHONY RONCONE by Parish Family

ETERNAL FLAME: Wednesday, November 17

In memory of EDITH VENEROSE by Parish Family

ETERNAL FLAME: Thursday, November 18

In memory of HELEN TRIMBOLI by Parish Family

ETERNAL FLAME: Friday, November 19

In memory of JOHN ROMAN by Parish Family
by Parish Family

ETERNAL FLAME: Saturday, November 20

In memory of REV. TIMOTHY O'NEILL by Very Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Cariglio, Jr.



IN YOUR CHARITY, please pray for repose of soul, **MICHAEL LARICCIA age 90, MAE WEIMER, age 59**, May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen

Nick's Notes

A note from our Music Director

This weekend I am featuring one of our long time choir members, Susan Izzo!

"My first exposure to vocal music occurred when I was a young child. My father would play Mario Lanza records and I would try to imitate the voices on the recordings. We also enjoyed listening to the Ray Coniff singers (which probably most of you today have never heard of). My siblings and I had fun singing and dancing in our living room. My parents loved to dance especially the Polka.

While singing in the choir at Boardman High School, our choir director, Mr. Errol Kehrberg, discovered my vocal talent. In my senior year I auditioned for and was accepted into the Boardman Chorale under the direction of Mrs. Etheleda Humphrey. Our chorale was fortunate in having the opportunity to travel to Mexico to enter a choral competition that year (1974). The Boardman Chorale earned a Gold Medal. Many attributed our First Place finish to my singing the solo part to Schubert's *Omnipotence* which we performed in the competition.

My high school directors encouraged me to take voice lessons and audition for the Dana School of Music. Thus after graduating Boardman High School in 1974 I began my journey as a vocal performance major at YSU.

I was so blessed and thankful for the many wonderful professors and musical opportunities at Dana! I sang in many operas, musical theatre productions, concert choir, Dana Madrigals, recitals, and other music events at YSU. I sang at the Youngstown Playhouse in "Hello Dolly".

My faith has always been most important to me. I had many opportunities singing in various churches throughout the Youngstown area; St. Christine parish, St. Columba Cathedral, First Covenant Church, St. John Episcopal Church, Jewish Temple Rodef Shalom, and my home sweet home, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Basilica.

After graduating from YSU I went on to pursue a Masters Degree in Boston, Massachusetts at the New England Conservatory. I am grateful for all the experiences I enjoyed there in the big city.

After graduating the New England Conservatory I returned to the Youngstown area. Deacon Mark and I were asked to sing for the Italian Man of the Year Dinner honoring Joe Montana. Shortly after, Deacon Mark and I began dating. Even though both of us attended the Dana School at the same time, we never dated despite being in several operas, musicals, and vocal ensembles. We were even husband and wife in the opera *Die Fledermaus*. He didn't know when he proposed to me on November 22, 1985 that it was the Feast of St. Cecilia, Patroness of Musicians. I felt this was God's will for us; to be husband and wife and share our musical talents together.

Deacon Mark was our wonderful organist and choir director at Our Lady of Mount Carmel for 26 years. During this time, I enjoyed being a cantor and choir director under his direction. We also sang for many weddings here at Mount Carmel and throughout the Youngstown area.

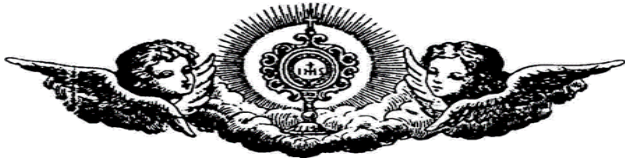
Deacon Mark and I were blessed with one beautiful daughter, Theresa who, in her own right, is very talented in playing both clarinet and organ. Despite these talents, she decided to pursue a career in chemistry and biology.

I am looking forward to continuing as a choir member at our beautiful basilica under the direction of Nick Mattiussi. I am so grateful to God for the gift of my voice and hope that I can continue to praise His Name through song for many years to come.

One of my favorite Psalms reads:

I will sing to the Lord all my life,
make music to my God while I live.
May my thoughts be pleasing to Him.
I find my joy in the Lord.
Bless the Lord, my soul. (Psalm 104:33-34, 35b)"

THIRTY - THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



APOSTOLATE OF PERPETUAL ADORATION

This past year has presented many obstacles to the beautiful Apostolate of Perpetual Adoration which has been in effect at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Basilica for the past 27 years. As we enter our 28th year of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, we now have an abbreviated schedule for adoration. As we work to rebuild a full schedule of 24 hours a day 7 days a week, we need your help.

We wish to acknowledge all the steadfast, loving people who have dedicated hours praying and keeping company with Our Blessed Lord. As of April 11, 2021, Divine Mercy Sunday, we have resumed adoration.

We are inviting each of you to come spend one hour with Our Risen Lord truly present body, blood, soul and divinity. The King of the Universe is waiting for YOU! You may come at any time to adore our Lord, but the following hours need to be filled:

Sunday: 4-5p.m., Sunday: 5-6 p.m., Monday, 3-4 p.m., Monday, 7-8 p.m., Tuesday, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., Wednesday, 2-3 p.m., Thursday, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., Thursday, 3p.m.- 4 p.m., Thursday, 5 p.m.. - 6 p.m.

Our present schedule is:

Sunday 4pm-8pm
Monday: 1pm-8pm
Tuesday: 8am-8pm
Wednesday: 1pm-8pm
Thursday: 8am-8pm
Friday: 1pm-4pm (Divine Mercy Devotion and Benediction at 3pm)

To schedule a time call, Jean Talley 330-758-3335 or

Maria Panozzo @ 330-372-5141.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT:

"And then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in the clouds' with great power and glory." Mark 13:26

We will all have that day when we are standing before God and our life is played out like a movie. When this happens and God asks each of us, "What have you done with the gifts that I have given you?" How will you respond? The good news - it's never too late to live and grateful and generous lifestyle.

FESTIVAL MEETING

Festival meeting is scheduled for **November 29, 2021** in the lower Church Hall.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

St. Columba Cathedral, 154 West Wood St., Youngstown will present its annual Advent Procession of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, November 28, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. The service will feature the Cathedral Choir under the direction of Dr. Daniel Lagninya, and the cathedral lectors coordinated by Mrs. Laura Elder, and families of the parish led by Sister Martha Reed, OSU. The program is based on the ancient traditional "O Antiphons" and culminates with the Annunciation narrative. The event is free and open to the public. Security and ample free parking will be provided.

The Chosen - Discussion Series

Every Tuesday November 16 to November 23, 2021

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in the St. Joseph's Hall

All high school students and adults are invited to join us as we watch and discuss Season 1 of the new mini-series on the life of Christ. Small group discussions will take place following the show. Watch it. Live it.

For more information visit: www.thechosen_olmc.eventbrite.com or contact Michele Berardi at 330-787-2775. Episodes are available to watch online at: <https://watch.angelstudios.com/the-chosen> Presented by The Basilica of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, 330-743-4144, WWW.OLMCSTA.COM

INTERCESSION:

That the Church will be continuously blessed with good and faithful servants following Christ as priests, deacons, sisters and brothers, **We pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer.**

Readings for November 14, 2021

Sunday Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Dn 12:1-3; Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11; Heb 10:11-14, 18; Mk 13:24-32

At the end, the Son of Man will return with great power and glory, placing his enemies under his feet. Those whose names are in the book shall live forever in light and joy.



Sponsor of the week:

Mark Thomas



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330-638-1010

www.markthomasford.com

Steve Bott, Parishioner

**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Basilica ~
St. Anthony of Padua Parish**

***Annual Parish Christmas Tree Lighting and
St. Vincent dePaul "Advent Goody Gift Bag Project"***

Following the 5pm Mass we gather around the big Tree in the Reflective garden, there we sing a few carols, have an Advent blessing (weather permitting). If not, we will gather in the Parish Social Hall. Enjoy fellowship, refreshments, and the making of Advent Goody Bags that will be given to



St. Vincent DePaul to distribute to individual people throughout this holiday season.

Something for ALL Ages

*******Last chance to drop off would be Saturday, November 27th until 3pm in the Social Hall.*******

Not able to shop? Donate money or a gift card that will allow us to purchase items. Make checks payable to OLMC **memo:** Advent goody bags. **Write on envelop: Attention Religious Education.** The following items are suggestions. Able to help presort, organize items into adult male, adult female, youth boy, youth girl, food items. Prepare gift tags, cut yarn to tie bags. That night we make Christmas cards for each bag. Call or email the Religious Education office if you have any questions. Sturdy boxes are needed to pack filled bags. Have any empty Amazon boxes?

Food Suggestions

Single servings, pull tabs. Nothing perishable, no glass items. Hot chocolate packets, teas, Gatorade Ramon Noodle soups, Cereal, breakfast bars, dried fruit packs (not fresh), beef jerky, pkg of peperoni slices, macaroni & cheese, crackers n cheese, juice boxes, ravioli or tuna lunch / snack size pudding or fruit packs.

Special small gift

Enjoyment or personal items Small books, card games, tablet or notebook for writing, small things to do such as puzzle books, reading material, pens, colored pencils, sketch pad, small pocket size game, fact booklets (football, music facts, airplanes, history, cars use your imagination.)

Personal Travel size is good. Tooth brushes, tooth paste, bar soap, shampoo, deodorant, hand lotion, chap sticks, baby wipes, hand sanitizer, combs, small box of band aids, single roll of toilet paper, Kleenex toiletry bags, wash cloth, Hats, gloves, scarves, socks (adult or children)

The Chosen Discussion Series

Only 2 more gatherings for this Series
St. Joseph Hall November 16th ~ Nov 23rd
Tuesdays

7pm—8:30pm Presented by: Michele Berardi
Gather in Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Basilica,

<https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen>
or at the gatherings Episodes are available to watch online at: Visit:thechosen_olmc.eventbrite.com

"Suggested Items" **When and Where to Drop Off**

Drop off beginning November 14th through 26th

M-F 9am—2:00pm Main Office

T-TH 9am-1:30pm Religious Education Office (JPll Center)

Following any Mass: The vestibule of the Church.

Contact Information for Religious Education 330-743-3508 www.olmcsta.com

FAX: 330-743-1035

OLMCReligiousEdOffice@gmail.com Tues., Wed. & Thurs 9:00am—1:30pm

After Hours by Appointment Only.

Mrs. Leanna Pipala x121: **Coordinator of Religious Education**

Miss Carly Koewacich x122: **Youth Minister**

Call the main office 330-743-4144 for **Marriage Preparation**

RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation

**Meet on Wednesday @ 6:30pm in the
St. John Paul II Center**

Questions or inquiring?
Call or email
OLMCTherese@gmail.com

330-743-3508 ex 122



THIRTY- THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Daniel 12:1-3
Ps 16:5,8-11
Hebrews 10:11-14,18
Mark 13:24-32

Monday November 15

1 Maccabees 1:10-15,
41-43,54-57,62-63
Ps 119:53,61,134,
150,155,158
Luke 18:35-43

Tuesday November 16

2 Maccabees 6:18-31
Ps 3:2-7
Luke 19:1-10

Wednesday November 17

St. Elizabeth of Hungary

2 Maccabees 7:1,20-31
Ps 17:1bcd,5-6,8b,15
Luke 19:11-28

Thursday November 18

1 Maccabees 2:15-29
Ps 50:1b-2,5-6,14-15
Luke 19:41-44

Friday November 19

1 Maccabees 4:3-37,52-59
1 Chr 29:10-12
Luke 19:45-48

Saturday November 20

1 Maccabees 6:1-13
Ps 9:2-4,6,16,19
Luke 20:27-40

Do you have an unending problem? Where's Jesus? In today's Gospel reading, Jesus speaks of his Second Coming. And here he hasn't even finished his first coming! How confusing it must have been to the disciples.



The final era ("last days") of salvation began on the first Pentecost and will continue until the Second Coming of Christ. It's the age of the Holy Spirit; Christ's earthly ministry is continued through us empowered by his Spirit.

They grew even more confused after Jesus ascended to heaven but delayed coming back. They remembered him saying that "this generation" will not pass away until all these Second Coming events have taken place, yet time passed, the apostles began to die off, and Jesus still had not returned. The misery of living in this world continued.

Think of your own unending problem. Don't you wish Jesus would hurry up with his Second Coming and destroy all evil? Notice what Jesus said: "When you see these things happening, know that I am near, at the gates." He didn't pin down a date.

The lesson in the fig tree is that we can discern when summer is near. In other words, we can discern – in good times and in bad – that Jesus is near to us in his Holy Spirit.

Jesus is right now at "the gate" of your next step on the journey to heaven. A gate is meant to be opened so that we can pass through it. Jesus is opening the gate right now for you – the gate of holiness, the gate of love. Step through it to live in the fullness of the mission he has planned for you here on earth.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What problems are you waiting to be rescued from? Is Jesus really taking too long, or does he have a bigger, better plan?
2. What will you do to become more aware of his nearness, his comfort, his joy and peace to help you endure the long wait?
3. What are the signs that the Church gives us that help us discern the nearness of Christ?
4. What other "fig trees" has Jesus given to you that increase your hope and patience and endurance?

So what was he trying to convey? His nearness!

For the past 2000+ years, we have all been part of "this generation" that will not pass away before his Second Coming. It's the generation of Christian humanity, the Body of Christ on Earth in the form of Church community, the generation of children who have been adopted by God the Father through the sacrifice and resurrection of God the Son.

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