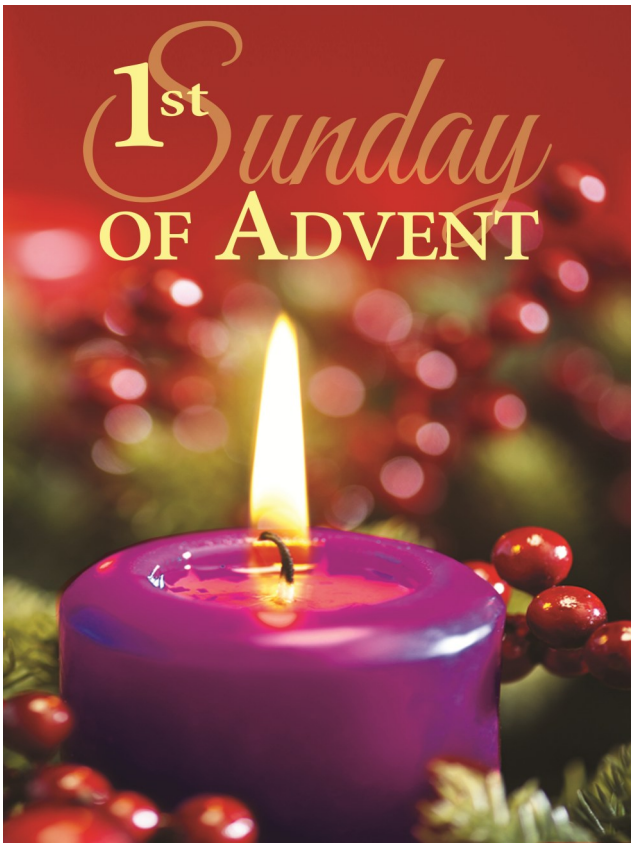
Our Lady Mother of the Church

209 Woodcliff Avenue ~ Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677
Phone Number: 201.391.2826
www.motherofthechurch.org

Our Mission

To be a Parish Community where the Signs of Faith are given so that, seeing them, all can be led to Eternal Life.



First Sunday of Advent ~ November 29, 2026

Parish Directory

Barbara Ciannella
Director of Music
Music@motherofthechurch.org

Raquel Condon
Director of Religious Education
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Inga Nelson
Volunteer Receptionist
(Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday)
Inga@motherofthechurch.org

Maria Garcia
Volunteer Receptionist
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Fr. Jason Mantich
Pastor
Ext. 201
Pastor@motherofthechurch.org

Fr. Michael Oasheim
Parochial Vicar
Ext. 201
Vicar@motherofthechurch.org

Parish Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Closed Friday

Parish Pastoral Council:
PastoralCouncil@motherofthechurch.org

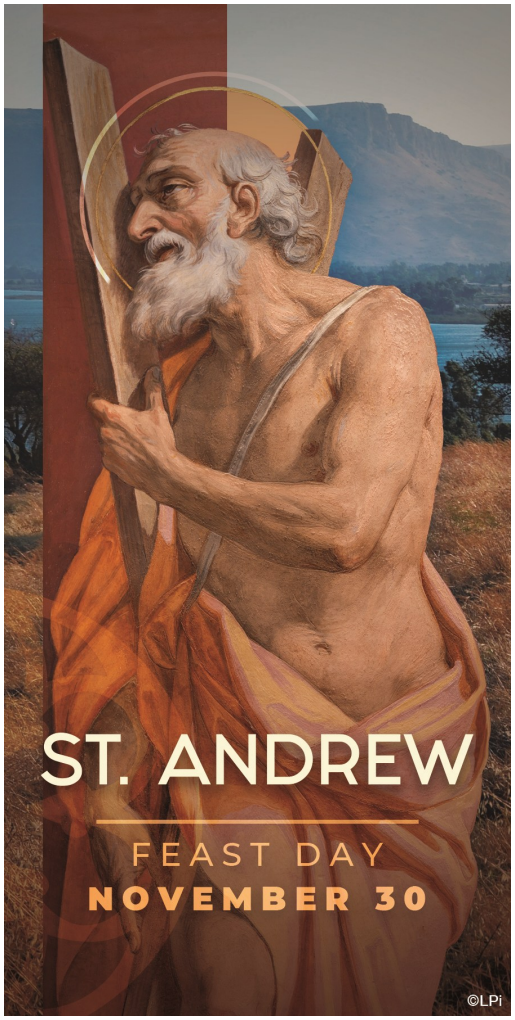
Weekdays
Monday-Friday 8:30 am

Weekends
Saturday 5:30 pm,
8:00 pm (Neocatechumenal Way Eucharist)
Sunday 8:30 am & 10:30 am

Holy Days
See bulletin for schedule of Masses

Reconciliation
Saturday
(Sign up using link on parish website)
12:30 pm to 2:00 pm (Opus Dei Priest)
and
4:30 pm to 5:00 pm (OLMC Parish Priest)
(No sign up required. First come, first served.)

From Fr. Jason



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This coming Monday, November 30, the Church celebrates the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle. In the liturgical calendar of 2026, his feast falls just after the First Sunday of Advent, a fitting moment as we begin again the journey toward Christmas.

Andrew is remembered as the "First-Called." According to the Gospel of John, he was one of the two disciples of John the Baptist who heard the words "Behold, the Lamb of God" and followed Jesus. After spending time with the Lord, Andrew's first instinct was to find his brother Simon and bring him to Christ with the simple, joyful announcement: "We have found the Messiah."

That moment of discovery, however, was only the beginning. Andrew still had to leave his nets, learn to trust, fail, repent, and keep following. He would spend the rest of his life becoming the disciple he was called to be - preaching, serving, and finally giving his life on the X-shaped cross that bears his name.

This is the truth the Church invites us to ponder on his feast: we are still on a journey to becoming Christians.

Baptism marks the beginning, not the completion, of that journey. Confirmation strengthens us, the Eucharist nourishes us, and Confession restores us, yet none of these sacraments finish the work of conversion. **Day by day we are still learning to leave our own "nets" - our attachments, fears, habits of self-reliance, and half-hearted responses - and to follow more closely in relationship with the Father**. Like Andrew, we are still discovering what it means to say with our lives, "We have found the Messiah," and then to lead others toward Him.

Advent is a privileged season for this ongoing conversion. **The Church does not pretend that we have already arrived**. She places us again on the road with the prophets, with John the Baptist, and with the first disciples, reminding us that the Christian life is not a static possession but a continual turning toward the One who calls us.

St. Andrew's example is both encouraging and challenging. He responded promptly, yet he kept responding for a lifetime. He brought others to Jesus, yet he himself remained a disciple until the end. His feast asks us the same quiet questions: Where is the Lord still calling me to leave something behind? Whom is He asking me to bring closer to Him? How am I being invited, even now, to become a Christian?

As we begin this new liturgical year, may St. Andrew intercede for us. May we have the courage to keep following, the humility to keep learning, and the joy of those who know they are still on the way.

Peace,



November is the Month of the All Souls

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday	**November 28**
5:30 pm	Mary Tarabocchia
Sunday	**November 29**
	First Sunday of Advent
8:30 am	Jenny Linda Martelle
10:30 am	People of the Parish
Monday	**November 30**
	St. Andrew, Apostle
8:30 am	Luciana Cabrera
Tuesday	**December 1**
8:30 am	Shady Prestol
Wednesday	**December 2**
8:30 am	Maria Scrivanich
Thursday	**December 3**
	St. Francis Xavier, Priest
8:30 am	Rev. Wojciech Jaskowiak **(Living Intention)**
Friday	**December 4**
	St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church
8:30 am	Eileen DePiero
Saturday	**December 5**
5:30 pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	**December 6**
	Second Sunday of Advent
8:30 am	Emalie Feerick
10:30 am	Anthony D'Jamoos

If we strive for goals, relishing in the pleasure of circumstance, nothing is enjoyable, and life becomes purposeless.

-St. Andrew

Stewardship of Treasure
My Parish, My Family, My Responsibility

"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.

-Mark 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.

No Receipts This Week. Bulletin Due Early.

For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven."

-Qoh 3:11

"A time to be healed."

Parish sick list: *Marie Barrett, Dino Caparoso, Rev. Bob Connor, Mary Cummings, JoAnn Dell'Aquila, Arlene Desposito, Ethel Dubrowski, Ed Evans, Trevor Giesberg, Ann Goodwin, Kathy Hedley, Pablo Ibarrola, Joachim Jung, Vivienne Knopp, Ivy LaRegina, Genna Lepore, Julia Geraghty, Robert Libonati, Jessica Livingstone, John Mandile, Joyce Merlino, John Mullins, Carol Myack, James Ranazzo, Danielle Rendon, Gail Roberts, Carol Schmidt, Jean Sember, Bro. Kevin Smith, John Vallely, Eric Vanderleif, Bryce Werner*

"A time to mourn."

"A time for war and a time for peace."

Tyler Aiello, Ryan Brady, Lcpl. Joseph Ryan, Seamus Ryan

Amen.

Parish Giving — simple. secure. convenient.

Electronic donations? Please scan the QR code to use our 'Parish Giving' service.



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn before the Blessed Sacrament for the month of December in memory of

Michael Pisano

Requested by the Pisano Family



Christmas at 'The Park'

The Town of Woodcliff Lake has asked Our Lady Mother of the Church and Christ Lutheran Church to jointly sponsor and host their annual Christmas Tree Lighting event at Woodcliff Park. **It will be Thursday, December 3rd at 5 PM.** Save the date and tell all your acquaintances! **Let's have the whole parish, even those that don't participate in anything, come together and fill the park with Christmas Joy!**



The First Sunday of Advent



Set up for Christmas

Your help is needed to decorate the church!

On **Sunday, December 6th, at 1 PM,** it will be all hands on deck! We will meet to set up the outside and inside decorations for Christmas! This will involve some lifting to put the 'wise men' into position and arranging the outdoor nativity scene. If indoor decorations are more your speed, no problem! Come enjoy working with your brothers and sisters setting the Christmas trees, wreaths, and indoor crèche. All are welcome to help. Come and see where you can get involved!





In the tradition established by Pope John Paul II, we invite you to bring your Baby Jesus from your manger to one of the Masses shown above for a special Bambinelli Sunday blessing.

What to do:
Simply bring your Baby Jesus to Mass.



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Meditation:

My daughter, why are you weeping? After all, you yourself offered to undertake these sufferings. Know that what you have taken upon yourself for that soul is only a small portion. He [Father Sopocko] **is suffering much more** (Diary, 596**).**

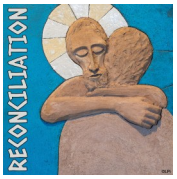
My daughter, suffering will be a sign to you that I am with you (Diary, 669).

My Prayer Response:

Lord Jesus, as St. Faustina took on the sufferings of Fr. Michael Sopocko, her spiritual director and confessor, please accept the sufferings of victim souls offered for priests. And remind me, Lord, to offer my own sufferings for priests.

**The words of Jesus appear in boldface type*

Share Divine Mercy Daily with your friends and family:
TheDivineMercy.org/dmdsignup



Advent Penance Service

We will join with parishes in our deanery for an Advent Penance Celebration. It will take place at:

St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church
120 Washington Ave.
Westwood, NJ 07675

Monday, Dec 14th starting at 7 PM.

Take the opportunity to make a good confession this Advent season! Never give up!



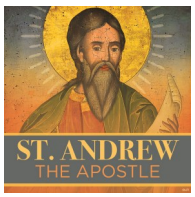
Kid's Corner

1. What is the meaning of the word Advent?
2. How many Sundays are in Advent?
3. What is the traditional color of Advent?
4. What do the four Advent candles symbolize?
5. Which feast follows Advent?

Answers:

1. The word Advent comes from the Latin word that means "coming." 2. There are four Sundays in Advent. 3. The traditional color of Advent is Purple. 4. First purple candle–Hope. Second purple candle–Love. Pink candle–Joy. Third purple candle–Peace. 5. Christmas.

NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF ALL SOULS



St. Andrew Novena

Starts November 30th

The St. Andrew Novena is a devotion, also known as the Christmas Anticipation Prayer, that starts on the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle, November 30, and ends on Christmas Eve. It consists in reciting the prayer found below 15 times each day of the novena period. Its exact origin is unknown, but it is believed to have begun in Ireland during the 19th century. This is a very meditative prayer that brings about graces, increases our awareness of the real focus of Christmas, and prepares us spiritually for His coming. 'Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, (mention your request here), through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.'



The History and Meaning of the Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is a beautiful Christian tradition that helps us prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Its roots can be traced to Germany, where Christians used wreaths and candles as signs of hope during the dark days of winter. The modern Advent wreath is often credited to Johann Hinrich Wichern, a German Lutheran pastor who created a large candle wreath in 1839 to help children count the days until Christmas. The custom was later adopted by German Catholics and eventually spread throughout the Catholic Church.

The Advent wreath is rich in symbolism. Its circular shape, with no beginning or end, represents God's eternal love, while the evergreen branches symbolize everlasting life in Christ. The four candles represent the four Sundays of Advent. Three violet candles symbolize prayer, penance, and preparation, while the rose candle, lit on the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday), represents joy as we draw closer to Christmas.

As we light another candle each week, the growing light reminds us that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World. May the Advent wreath inspire us to wait with hope, prepare with faith, and rejoice in the coming of our Savior!

With faith, all things are possible.

-St. Andrew



A Little Humor…

A town decided to form a clergy group to have Catholics, Jews, Protestants, and Muslims gather to talk about various issues facing their places of worship. The Rabbi went first and said they were having a terrible issue with squirrels. He said they were hanging around outside of church and aggressively begging for food. He said they were scaring their kids. The pastor said they were having the same issue. In fact, a few of the squirrels had actually gotten inside of the church and had done some damage to the roof. The Imam agreed saying that, in fact, one of the squirrels had bitten a few people at the mosque. The Priest then spoke up and said they used to have the same issue but had solved it. He said they took all of their squirrels, Baptized and Confirmed them, and now they only come around at Christmas."

SOUP KITCHEN

St. John's Soup Kitchen Needs Your Help!

OLMC will serve at St. John's Soup Kitchen **Saturday, December 5**. We will need casserole makers and bakers to prepare the food at home and drop off at the OLMC kitchen by **9 am, Thursday, December 3**. If interested in serving, we will carpool from the church leaving at 8:30 am and returning around 1:30 pm. Please sign-up in the lobby if you can help. Pans for the lasagnas will be provided in the OLMC kitchen this with the recipe. Recipes for Spinach-Beef Lasagna and Tollhouse Chocolate Chip Cookies will also be emailed to you. Please e-mail patkeenaghan@yahoo if you can help bake, make casseroles, serve, or have any questions. Thank you for your help and generosity!

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13: 34-35.

Marian Pilgrimage

Join Bishop Elias Lorenzo, O.S.B. on a Marian Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion on October 8-11, 2027. This is the only church approved apparition of the B.V.M. in the U.S.A. For details, scan the QR code.





Christmas Giving Tree and 'Waterfront' Collection

We are sponsoring a Giving Tree for Mercy House this season, serving the needs of the community in the Archdiocese of Newark. We will also do a gift card collection next month for the residents of the 'Waterfront,' next door to us on Broadway. **We need helpers!** If you would like to help with the delivery or support after Masses, we need you! Please contact Pat Keenaghan, patkeenaghan@yahoo.com or call 201.403.4897.

The Giving Tree will be ready with tags to make wishes come true after Masses this weekend. Tags will have gift suggestions. **Gifts will be due back by Nov. 30**. Please put the **unwrapped** gifts in the bin in the lobby.

The Waterfront Collection: The residents are always so grateful for your kind and generous gift cards. Tags will be available after Masses on Dec. 5-6 and Dec. 12-13. Gift cards will be due back by Dec. 20. Please put the gift cards in the basket in the lobby. Thank you for your generosity!

Love is acceptance. When you love someone...you take them into your heart, and that is surely why it hurts so much when we lose someone we love, because we lose a part of ourselves. -St. Andrew

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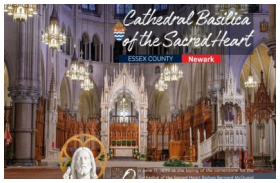

175th Anniversary Book

In 2028, the Archdiocese of Newark will celebrate its 175th anniversary. To document this rich history, the diocese has prepared a 620 page, full color, high quality, glossy paper, history book featuring the parishes, universities, schools, and other institutions that make up the extraordinary fabric of the Archdiocese of Newark. *Treasures of the Archdiocese of Newark*, the title of the book, was created in collaboration with professional writers who have produced a narrative history of the archdiocese. They also worked with an architectural photographer, Serge Detalle, who has spent many months photographing parishes and institutions. This creation is truly a gem! For children and youth, they also created *The Illustrated History of the Archdiocese of Newark*, a full color, high quality, illustrated book of 35 pages. Both books will be available for delivery during Easter 2027.

We need to know how many copies you want by November 30, 2026! They are $39.00 and $16.00, respectively. Scan the QR code to reserve your copies and for links to preview the books!





Respect Life Corner

"Dearest St. Joseph…We praise God that as their faithful protector, you never hesitated to sacrifice for those entrusted to you. May your example inspire us also to welcome, cherish, and safeguard God's most precious gift of life…Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
"A Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life"