

OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

209 Woodcliff Avenue ~ Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677

Phone Number ~ 201.391.2826

www.motherofthechurch.org

Our Mission

Called by our baptism and nourished by the Eucharist, the parishioners of Our Lady Mother of the Church, acknowledge our mission to teach, share and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we create a welcoming environment, enthusiastically gather and worship to praise God, and strive to imitate the life of Jesus as we reach out beyond our own faith community.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ~ APRIL 28, 2024

Fr. Jason Mantich

Administrator

Ext. 201

JasonOLMC@proton.me

Fr. Siffredus Rwechungura

Parochial Vicar

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Closed Friday

Parish Directory

Barbara Ciannella

Director of Music

barbaraciannella88@gmail.com

Raquel Condon

Director of Religious Education

(201) 391-7400

faithformationolmc@gmail.com

Judi Quinn

Administrative Assistant

Ext. 200

judiolmc@yahoo.com

Vito Delzotto

Parish Council President

Weekdays

Monday-Friday 8:30 am

Weekends

Saturday 5:30 pm,

8:00 pm (Neocatechumenal Way Eucharist)

Sunday 8:30 am, 10:30 am & 6:00 pm

Holy Days

See bulletin for schedule of Masses

Reconciliation

Saturday

(Sign up using link on parish website)

11:30 am 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,

We are going to start the beautiful month of May this week. The month of May is dedicated to Mary. She is Our Lady. Is she your Lady? Let us give her due honor in our devotions, but especially through our lives. I wish for all our families to make this month special in your homes by gathering every day to recite the Holy Rosary, or even a decade, or praying together the Litany to the Virgin Mary, or even just singing some hymns to her. I invite you to put a statue or image of Mary in a prominent place in your homes or front lawns. You can put some flowers or make a special home crowning of Mary in each family. Any type of veneration is pleasing to Mary. Every Wednesday in May after the 8:30 a.m. daily Mass, we can make a special tribute to Our Lady in front of her statue outside the 'Annex' by reciting the Holy Rosary. Let us witness to all those passing by that it is her month and that we are hers. Does it sound like a good idea? We will have our Mary Crowning on May 5, during the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

The Easter season is a fitting time to recall Mary's immense joy over her Son's Resurrection and to rediscover her role as mother and teacher in our lives. Mary was Jesus' first disciple, humbly following Him during every step of His journey and mission. She trusted in God completely and lived by His grace. She is our model of true discipleship and of complete faith. During the Easter season we are more aware of Mary's motherly presence and love. It is perhaps for this reason that popular tradition has dedicated the month of May, which falls during this liturgical season, to Our Blessed Mother.

Here is a great insight into St. Bernadette Soubirous, the young woman whom the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to in Lourdes, France. She was so famous and yet she did not attempt to trade her call for fame. People were openly skeptical about why the Blessed Virgin would appear to a girl who was functionally illiterate, who at the time of the first apparition had not even made her First Communion. Bernadette was so unimportant! She lived with her family in a one-room cottage that had once served as a jail!

But Bernadette was spiritually indifferent to the doubts and verbal rocks thrown her way. With unfailing simplicity and calm, Bernadette shared what had happened - nothing more and nothing less - about the eighteen times in six months that she saw Our Lady. When investigators changed her words or tried to add to them, she corrected them. When they asked what it meant when Our Lady said, "I am the Immaculate Conception," she said it was not her responsibility to explain these things, only to share the message.

And when the visions ceased, Bernadette did not make a single attempt to trade on her fame. She entered a convent - not leaving even for the dedication of the Lourdes Basilica. When someone asked why she herself, sickly her entire life, was not cured by the waters, Bernadette responded: "The Blessed Virgin perhaps desires for me to suffer. I need it."

It can be tempting to do some self-promotion, to inflate our own importance to the well-being of our family, our parish, or our employer. Yet we are all only vessels for God's work in the world. May we, as Bernadette did, respond to the profound gifts we are given with humility, modesty, and clarity. "From this moment on, anything concerning me is no longer of any interest to me. I must belong entirely to God and God alone. Never to myself." -St. Bernadette Soubirous

Peace,

APRIL IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Saturday

5:30 pm

Sunday

8:30 am

10:30 am

6:00 pm

Monday

8:30 am

Tuesday

8:30 am

Wednesday

8:30 am

Thursday

8:30 am

Friday

8:30 am

Saturday

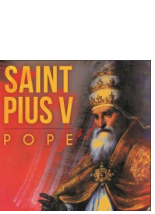
5:30 pm

Sunday

8:30 am

10:30 am

6:00 pm



April 27

Dennis Ring

April 28

Fifth Sunday of Easter

People of the Parish

John Tarabocchia

Segundo Padilla

April 29

St. Catherine of Siena

William Moncrieff, Jr.

April 30

St. Pius V

Virginia M. & James T. Horris

May 1

St. Joseph the Worker

Caterina Modafferi

May 2

St. Athanasius; National Day of Prayer

Maria Picinic

May 3

Ss. Philip & James

Nancy Flower

May 4

Thomas Connolly

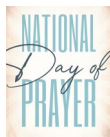
May 5

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Joseph Hyde

Thomas Morin

Leonard Kenneth Berlinghieri



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

Ecclesiastes 3:11

"A time to be healed."

Parish sick list: Marie Barrett, Rev. Bob Connor, Arlene Desposito, Ethel Dubrowski, Ed Evans, Robert Fedison, Trevor Giesberg, Ann Goodwin, Kathy Hedley, Brad Jones, Joachim Jung, Vivienne Knopp, Robert "Peter" Kosco, Ken Kubicki, Ivy LaRegina, Genna Lepore, Julia Geraghty, Robert Libonati, Jessica Livingstone, John Mandile, Joyce Merlino, John Mullins, Carol Myack, David Plummer, James Ranaazzo, Danielle Rendon, Gail Roberts, Carol Schmidt, Jean Sember, Tara Shankman, Bro. Kevin Smith, John Vallely, Eric Vanderleif, Mary Jane Weir, Steve White and Bryce Werner

"A time to mourn."

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

Tyler Aiello, Ryan Brady, Lt. Joseph Ryan and Seamus Ryan

Amen.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Fr. Siffredus as he celebrates 25 years as a Priest on 5/29/24! Let us bless the Lord with him and our fellow parishioners on **Sunday, May 26** after the 10:30 am Mass. Hospitality will be shared with a light lunch to honor this occasion. Please join us!

Stewardship of Treasure

My Parish, My Family, My Responsibility

"Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." - 1 John 3:18

Regarding our Catholic faith, do you "walk the talk?" Do your actions reflect what it means to be a good disciple? Are you an active participant at Sunday Mass? Are you joyful when participating in parish ministry? Do you give gratefully and generously with your financial support to your parish and other Church needs? If not, it's not too late to start!

Receipts From Last Week.....	\$3,141.00
Parish Giving.....	\$955.00
Parish Assessment.....	\$315.00
Mothers Day to Date.....	\$15.00

Parish Feast



How should we celebrate our parish feast day, Mary, Mother of the Church, on Monday, May 20th? Scan the QR code or find the link on the front page of the parish website for a quick survey and to submit your answers.



New to the Area?

If you are, why not join our ever-growing Parish family? You may register via our parish website: www.motherofthechurch.org. PLEASE, inform us of a new address or phone number.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

My name is Gina Franco and I have started a grief group here at OLMC. I experienced the loss of my amazing daughter

Dominique, who was only 21 when she passed unexpectedly on 2/16/19. I have created a Facebook Page, Grief Warriors, that gives people a safe, sacred space and now I am looking forward to give people here at OLMC a place to share their stories and give HOPE and FAITH while healing together. **We will next meet on May 6th at 7:00 pm.** Hope to see you in celebrating all the love our loved ones continue to give us.

ANNUAL ²⁰²⁴ APPEAL

Thank you to all those who have helped our parish reach our 2024 Annual Appeal Stretch Goal of \$37,136.00! We have received \$44,603.01 in pledges from 73 families and have achieved approximately 120% of our goal!

To date, we have collected \$31,089.02. Please be sure to honor your pledges! There is an incentive built into the appeal. All parishes that meet or exceed their Stretch Goal in funds collected (paid) by June 30, 2024, will receive a 2% assessment rate reduction in their parish assessment for FY 2025! Also, pledges made by June 30, 2024, that exceed the Stretch Goal, will be eligible for a 50% rebate directly to the parish, with the final rebate amount being determined by funds collected (paid) through December 31, 2024.

If you have not yet made a gift, there are envelopes available at the church entrances or you can visit rcan.org/sharing. Your gift will truly make a difference. Thank you for your prayers and support.



Thanks to everyone for your generous donations to the Food Pantry in April. **Our next collection will be the weekend of May 4th and 5th.** The special requests for this month are: **canned chicken/tuna, mayonnaise and crackers.** While we are grateful for ALL donations, the food pantry cannot distribute expired food items. Please make sure you check the expiration dates on all the donated food items. Any other donations are of course welcome as well. All those concerned at the pantry deeply appreciate your continued generosity. May God bless you abundantly!



Divine Mercy Daily

Daily Reflections from the
Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska

Meditation:

Today, the Lord came to me and said, **My daughter, help Me to save souls. You will go to a dying sinner, and you will continue to recite the chaplet, and in this way you will obtain for him trust in My mercy, for he is already in despair** (Diary, 1797).

Suddenly, I found myself in a strange cottage where an elderly man was dying amidst great torments. All about the bed was a multitude of demons and the family, who were crying. When I began to pray, the spirits of darkness fled, with hissing and threats directed at me. The soul became calm and, filled with trust, rested in the Lord. At the same moment, I found myself again in my own room. How this happens ... I do not know (Diary, 1798).

My Prayer Response:

Thank You, Jesus, for the gift of trust for the dying as we pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. You dispel a multitude of demons and bring peace to the tormented soul.

*The words of Jesus appear in boldface type.

Share Divine Mercy Daily with your friends and family by sending them this link: TheDivineMercy.org/dmdsignup

Kid's Corner



1. What was Mary's hometown?
2. What was the name of the Angel that appeared to Mary?
3. About how old was Mary when the angel appeared to her?
4. What cousin did Mary go to after the angel appeared to her?
5. The cousin Mary visited would be the mother to what Saint?

1. Nazareth 2. Gabriel 3. 13/14 4. Elizabeth 5. John the Baptist

ANSWERS:

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Attention All Youth!

Our Lady Mother of the Church is excited to re-launch its Altar Server Program - and we need your help to do so! If the parents of those interested in participating would complete the form found by scanning the QR code, we can assess Mass availability, training availability, and prior experience.

Boys and girls in 4th through 9th grade are welcome. It is a privilege to minister as an altar server at Mass. Servers assist the priest at the altar and help the congregation pray. We invite you to share this special privilege of becoming an altar server. Serving Mass is important to the parish and to the whole church. Everyone who wants to serve should learn what the Mass is and understand how important it is to us as Catholics.



A mother with a crying baby leaves the Church. The priest calls out to her: "You do not have to leave. The baby does not bother me." The mother replied: "But *you* bother the baby."



Such a wonderful time was had by all in attendance at the **Festa D'Amore** on Friday, April 19th! It was just fantastic to see everyone celebrating and spending time together. Special thanks to the parishioners for their continued support and expressed enthusiasm for our parish events. Much gratitude for the generosity of our sponsors and to all the volunteers that made the night a success!!! Many blessings to all!!!



Save the Date!

With summer around the corner, there is nothing better than a BBQ, outside games, and fun filled activities. Please join your fellow parishioners on **Sunday, June 23** from 2 pm to 6 pm for our parish Picnic. Fun for the entire family! Don't miss it!!! More details to follow! Tickets go on sale starting the weekend of May 11/12 after the masses and in the parish office. Any questions, please call Marie Ruppel at 201.396.2947.



Parish Registration

All Roman Catholics over 18 years of age, even those not living on their own, are expected to officially register in their parish. If you did NOT receive the Christmas mailing, you are probably NOT registered!

You can register online through our parish website: www.motherofthechurch.org. For more information, or to obtain a registration form, contact Judi in the parish office 201.391.2826 or judiolmc@yahoo.com.

Why register? We strongly encourage you to register, even if you do not wish to receive weekly contribution envelopes, so we can include you on our mailing list. Only registered members of the parish can enroll a child in Faith Formation, obtain a Sponsor Certificate or Godparent Eligibility Form, or any other recommendations or documentation. Parents of Catholic School children requesting a parish subsidy are required to be active parishioners both in Mass attendance and financial assistance to this parish.

Furthermore, to obtain a Sponsor (Godparent) Certificate, letter of recommendation, or other documentation, you must fulfill any canonical (Church Law) requirements for such documentation.

Saints who had a Deep Devotion to Mary

If you ever feel distressed during your day, call upon our Lady. Just say this simple prayer: "Mary mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now." I must admit, this prayer has never failed me.

- **St. Mother Teresa**

If you invoke the Blessed Virgin when you are tempted, she will come at once to your help, and Satan will leave you.

- **St. John Vianney**

Men do not fear a powerful hostile army as the powers of hell fear the name and protection of Mary.

- **St. Bonaventure**

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



Molly Offer

Requested by the Offer Family

APRIL IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST



For those who wish to memorialize loved ones for Mothers' Day, envelopes can be found in the lobby of the church and in your offering envelopes that are mailed to you. Please send these envelopes to the Parish Office or place them in the baskets at Mass. The names will be published in the May 19th Bulletin.

Registration for Lighting Our Faith 2024

Our summer religious education program, **Lighting Our Faith**, is open for registration to students entering Grades 3 - 6 in September. The summer education program will take place weekdays from **Thursday, June 20th through Friday June 28th, 9:30 am to 1:00 pm**. Parents **NEED** to volunteer as a catechist, catechist aide, acting workshop teacher, or sport/recreational facilitator.

Those parents who volunteer as catechists will only pay the cost of books for their attending child/ren (\$30 per child). In addition to regular Sunday Mass attendance (which is just part of being a Catholic Christian), there will be a series of events throughout the year (usually once a month September thru May) which those children enrolled in LOF will have to attend. These events will take place during regular Faith Formation time (Wednesdays from 3:45 pm - 5 pm). More information about the specific scheduling of these events will be shared with parents at the time of LOF registration.

Registration for LOF will happen **IN PERSON** only. The registration form is available under the Faith Formation tab on our website www.motherofthechurch.org. Please print out and fill out one registration form per family and bring it in person along with payment (cash or check) Monday, May 6 or Wednesday, May 8 from 10 am - 12 pm. Please let us know in advance when you will come so either Raquel Condon or Fr. Jason are able to receive your registration and payment and give you the list of required events. Any questions, do not hesitate to call or email the Faith Formation Office: (201) 391-7400 or faithformationolmc@gmail.com.

**If you are depressed, you are living in the past.
If you are anxious, you are living in the future.
If you are at peace, you are living in the present.**

Heritage Fund

The Our Lady Mother of the Church Heritage Fund is a **restricted fund** created to complete projects and improvements in the parish. Proposed projects are named and as they are completed, it will be communicated here.

<u>Proposed Project</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
New Church Roof	\$108,000.00

Amount donated to date: \$3,630.00.

If you would like to donate to this project, please make checks payable to 'Our Lady Mother of the Church' with 'Heritage Fund - New Church Roof' in the memo line. Thank you for your support! May God give you 100-fold!

Heritage Fund UPDATE

Towards the end of last summer, the church developed a leak in the roof that dripped into the sanctuary area. I had several roofers come take a look and see any problems we might have. I hired one of those roofers to delete the broken and leaking skylights in the parking lot entrance lobby, patch a few areas of the 'flat roof' that were cracked and leaking, repair the steeple that had some warped metal allowing water penetration, and repair some areas of fascia that had fallen off or were loose. We have made a few more patch repairs since then as leaks continue to develop.

We were able to investigate the Cross on the steeple with a drone with the help of a parishioner. We are getting lots of information and trying to determine the best next steps for a new flat and pitched roof for the church. I will continue to report updates here and communicate our options. One thing I know for sure, the Lord will have to help us find a way to pay for it! If you are inspired to help in this new Heritage Fund Project, please see above. Courage! Let us pray and also ask our Lady and St. Joseph to intercede for us!