December 27, 2015

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

New Year’s Eve Mass Schedule

5:30pm

New Year’s Day

10am & 12 noon

Rev. Charles P. Granstrand, Pastor
Rev. Robert T. Ulak, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Msgr. James C. Turro (Weekends)
Rev. Msgr. Carl D. Hinrichsen (In Residence)
Rev. John Chadwick (Weekends)
Joseph S. Romano, Deacon
Gary Tankard, Deacon

MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday Evening: 5:30PM
Sunday: 7:30AM, 9:30AM, 11:00AM, 12:30PM
Daily: 6:30AM, 8:30AM
Saturday: 8:30AM

BAPTISM
The Sacrament is celebrated one Sunday every month. Parents should contact the rectory prior to the birth of their child for dates of Baptism Preparation Sessions.

MARRIAGE
Couples planning to be married should contact the rectory at least ONE YEAR PRIOR to the wedding date.

John Rokoszak, Pastoral Associate
Debra Wyka, Minister of Music
Amy Ballanco, Religious Education Coordinator
Jennifer Kavanagh, Youth Minister
Donna Quinn, Finance Manager
Maureen Giaccio, Rectory Office Manager

RECONCILIATION
Saturday: 9-9:30AM & 1-1:30PM
Monday: 7-7:30PM

SCHOOL
Our Lady of Mercy Academy
2011 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence
25 Fremont Avenue, Park Ridge, NJ 07656
Laraine Meehan, Principal

CATECHETICAL MINISTRY
Grades K-6: 4-5PM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
Grades 7-8: 3:45-5:15PM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

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<th>Rectory</th>
<th>Websites</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Catechetical Center</th>
<th>Music Minister</th>
<th>E-Mail</th>
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<tr>
<td>201-391-5315</td>
<td>UROLM.org</td>
<td>201-391-3838</td>
<td>201-391-3590</td>
<td>201-358-2994</td>
<td><a href="mailto:olm.church@gmail.com">olm.church@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>2 Fremont Ave.</td>
<td>OLMAcademy.org</td>
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<td>201-802-1771</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:Urolm.religious.ed@gmail.com">Urolm.religious.ed@gmail.com</a></td>
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OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH MISSION STATEMENT
Our Lady of Mercy Parish is a Catholic community that worships God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, celebrating Mass, proclaiming the Gospel Message and uniting in prayer. We strive to welcome all and to educate ourselves and others in the Good News of Jesus Christ. We support one another in times of joy and sadness and attempt to serve each other by reaching out to those in need in our community and beyond. We are imperfect people on a journey. Our goal is that the life of each person leads to the Lord.

LET US PRAY
In your love and kindness please pray for the sick especially: Ella Gamble, Brian Long, Ruth Amburgey, Saintanie Joseph, Fr. Carl Hinrichsen, Edward Klein IV, Joseph Kearney, and Peggy Funesti.

Please also remember the deceased of our parish and their families, especially: Patricia Beers.

Please join with us in praying one OUR FATHER per day for all those who have no one to pray for them.

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS burn this week in memory of: Cristina Santos, Marc Perillo, and for Howard Minnick.

If you would like more information about reserving a Sanctuary Lamp in memory of a loved one or for a Special Intention, please call the rectory office at 201-391-5315.

GOD’S PLAN FOR GIVING – Tithing
Due to early bulletin deadline, collection totals will be listed in next week’s bulletin.

Tithing is God’s plan to support His Church. Full tithing means 10% of gross income to God. We ask half of this, or 5%, for your Parish church. The other 5% goes to your favorite charities.

THE FAMILY OF GOD PRAYER GROUP meets every Tuesday at 7:30PM in the chapel to praise God and pray for special intentions.

ABUNDANT LIFE PRAYER GROUP meets Thursday mornings at 9:30am in the Chapel.

THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA will be recited each Saturday in the Sacred Heart Chapel immediately following the 8:30AM Mass.

PLEDGED TO DATE: $463,492 By 144 donors
THANK YOU!

“By crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, we will find the strength to embrace God’s mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us.”

Pope Francis
Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Merry Christmas! May the joy of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your heart on this Christmas of the year 2015 and give you the Peace of Christ in the New Year!

I would like to offer you this quote from Pope Francis taken from the little book, “A Year with Pope Francis”, for Christmas Eve.

“The first word that I wish to say to you is joy do not be sad people; a Christian can never be sad! Never give way to discouragement! Ours is a joy not born from having many possessions, but from having encountered in our midst a Person: Jesus who never leaves us alone in difficult moments and is all the more present when problems seem unbearable and obstacles insurmountable.”

Thank you to all who helped prepare our church for the Feast of the Nativity of Jesus: the Knights of Columbus who set up all the trees in the church and the gathering space as well as the Nativity scene outside, and all who came on Monday evening to arrange the flowers, hang the wreaths and roping, and arrange the manger scenes for the Chapel and the Gathering Space.

Thank you to all who are part of the liturgies and serve as lectors, Eucharistic ministers, ushers and altar servers. Thank you to all who are part of our music ministry and help us to praise God with music and song: our singers, choirs and cantor, musicians, bell ringers and our music director.

Thank you to all who come to worship God on Christmas Eve and Morning. I thank you who are part of our worship throughout the year and help to make visitors and guests welcome on these special days. This is also an opportunity for me to thank all the members of our pastoral staff and those who make the offices function smoothly while welcoming all who come with questions and needs.

I also thank Bishop Flesey for coming to bless our Holy Door on Saturday, December 19, which was so beautifully prepared. Elsewhere in the bulletin is a helpful description of this tradition. I am happy that our parish of Our Lady of Mercy can serve as a “pilgrimage church” for this Jubilee Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis. May we all grow in appreciation of the gift of mercy that Jesus came to share with all who accept his gospel. May we be a place of peace and healing for all who seek God’s mercy. May we go out to the “peripheries” of our communities as the messengers of mercy Pope Francis encourages us to be!

Peace in the Lord Who has Come!

St. Charles

What Is A Holy Door?

Each of the four papal basilicas in Rome (St. Peter, St. Mary Major, St. John Lateran, and St. Paul Outside the Walls) has a Holy Door. These doors are sealed from the inside so that they cannot be opened except during holy years. Pilgrims fulfilling certain penances and then going through the newly opened doors can gain the plenary indulgence (removal of the temporal punishment due to sin) associated with the special year.

On December 8, 2015 the Holy Door at St. Peter’s opened to begin the Year of Mercy. “On that day, the Holy Door became a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instills hope,” as Pope Francis said during his announcement of the Holy Year. The door will remain open until November 20, 2016, when it will be ceremonially closed and bricked shut until the next Holy Year.

On the Third Sunday of Advent, the Holy Door of the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the official home church of the pope, opened. In the following weeks, the other Holy Doors in Rome opened. At the same time, Pope Francis has asked that a Door of Mercy be opened in “the mother church of the faithful in any particular area—or, alternatively, at the co-cathedral or similar door may be opened at any shrine frequented by large groups of pilgrims, since visits to these holy sites are so often grace-filled moments, as people discover a path to conversion”

R.C.I.A The group will meet after the 9:30 Mass in the Parish Center on January 10, 24, February 7, 28, March 13, April 3, May 15 and June 5. For more information, or if you are unable to make a Sunday Session, please contact John Rokoszak at 201-391-3590 or call/text 201-264-6376 or email Jlrok@optonline.net

SOCIAL JUSTICE & PEACE MINISTRY will meet January 19, 2016 at 7:15pm in the Saint Mary’s Room located across from the Rectory.
MINISTRY OF THE NET (Internet that is!)  
Our Lady of Mercy is looking for a volunteer to help maintain the Parish website urolm.org. Typical updates include the weekly bulletin attachment and periodic ministry schedules. In general, changes to the website require about an hour a week. The current website is home-grown and tool-independent. The web-hosting service supports a variety of web-authoring software and likely includes whatever you are comfortable with. The new webmaster will also have the opportunity to provide practical guidance to the staff in making revisions to the website. Interested? Email webmaster@urolm.org

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS— Seeking New Members  
The Our Lady of Fatima Council #4486 in Park Ridge seeks new members. The Knights are an organization of Catholic gentlemen who are ever present in our Parish and who provide financial contributions (money raised from our many fund-raising activities) to local charities. We are looking for good men who wish to join our ranks and share their God-given talents. Please visit our website (kofc4486.org) or call Ken Schmitt (201-307-9637) for more information on how to become a part of this dynamic organization!

CREATIVE WOMAN’S GROUP—Last month we worked on creating No Sew Fleece Blankets and a member read a poem they wrote about Angels. Our next meeting is on January 7th from 7:30 - 9:00 in the Lower Church Gathering Space. This meeting will be an open night for you to bring any current projects you are working on. Weather it is knitting, scrapbooking or getting your photo albums organized, please continue to join us or start a new project you have been meaning to get too. Please feel free to share any written creativity you have as well...you can read a poem or short story, all forms of creative arts are welcome. This group is meant to be a forum for the women of our parish community to come and be a creative in. To share your thoughts or creative projects/ideas in. If you have a craft/project you would like to offer to the group or teach, please contact me for more details. We are happy to see everyone’s creative abilities and learn from. No supplies will be available, if a project is scheduled for that month, you will receive a supply list for you to purchase on your own and bring to meeting. Meetings are planned for the First Thursday of every month in the lower church gathering space. If you should need help carrying your supplies down the stairs, help will be available for you. Please contact Jessica Bruno with any questions at 201-664-3536 or email at j2pb3@hotmail.com

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS  
Do you regularly attend Mass at Our Lady of Mercy Church but have never gotten around to formally registering? It’s easy. Just go to our website www.urolm.org and click on “rectory” on the left hand side. Select “registration form”, print it out, complete it and return it to the rectory. Registration is our only means of certifying anyone for sponsorship letters for the sacraments. Thank you.

RECONCILIATION TIMES OFFERED IN NEIGHBORING PARISHES  
Church of the Assumption, Emerson  
Saturdays 11am to 12 noon  
Saint Andrew, Westwood  
Saturday 4:00—4:30pm  
St. John the Baptist, Hillsdale  
Saturday 4:00—4:45pm  
Presentation, Upper Saddle River  
Monday after 9am Mass and Saturday after 9am Mass  
Our Lady of Good Counsel, Washington Township  
Saturday 4:00—4:30pm  
Our Lady Mother of the Church, Woodcliff Lake  
Saturday 4:30pm  
Saint Pius, Old Tappan  
Saturday 4:30pm—5pm  
St. Margaret, Pearl River  
Saturday 11:00—11:45am

MINISTRY OF ELDER CARE—A ministry to provide support and education to individuals, families and caregivers who are dealing with aging issues and concerns. 7:30pm to 8:45pm in the Parish Center. The next meetings are January 6, February 3, March 2. If you would like to attend, please call the rectory office at 201-391-5315.

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OUR LADY OF MERCY BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY  
Wednesday, January 13, 2016  
7:30pm – 8:45pm  
Our Journey Through Grief  
Often after the loss of a loved one, there are feelings, and issues left unresolved. If you have experienced the loss of a loved one, please join us for the evening. Our Bereavement Group will meet in the Parish Center (former Convent). For more information call John Rokoszak at 201-391-3590.  
Future meeting dates:  
February 10, March 9

LONGEST MARRIED COUPLE IN THE U.S.—The search is underway. Do you think you know who they are? Maybe it’s your parents…grandparents….that nice couple who live down the street… Nominating a couple is easy! Just enter their names, wedding date and where they live and your contact info to wwmelmc2015@gmail.com Nominations accepted until January 10. Winners will be announced February to celebrate World Marriage Day.

THE ROSARY SOCIETY will attend the 8:30am Mass on Saturday, January 2nd followed by recitation of the Rosary. Newcomers welcome!