



Our Lady of the Snow

*175 Blue Point Avenue
Blue Point, New York 11715
Telephone: 631-363-6385*

*December 20, 2020 Fourth Sunday in Advent
“For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.”*



Rev. Kevin M. Smith, Pastor

ksmith@olsbp.com

Rev. Joseph Gaspar

jgaspar@olsbp.com

Deacon Edward Karan

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Deacon Bob Gronenthal

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Mrs. Marlene Tully,

Pastoral Associate, ext. 110

mtully@olsbp.com

Office of Faith Formation:

Mrs. Loren Christie, ARE

lchristie@olsbp.com

Monday - Thursday

9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

(631) 363-6394

Director of Music:

Mrs. Theresa Martin

Parish Outreach:

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

outreach@olsbp.com

Monday - Thursday in the cottage

Mrs. Diana Mongan, Director

dmongan@olsbp.com

Mrs. Patricia Fulco, Assistant

pfulco@olsbp.com

(631) 363-2417

Ms. Loraine Drake,

Office Manager., ext. 111

ldrake@olsbp.com

Parish Office: (631) 363-6385

Fax: (631) 363-7394

rectory@olsbp.com

Hours: Mon. - Thur. 9:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Friday closed in July and August

***Catholic Marriage for couples
married outside the Church:***

If you have a civil marriage but now desire a Catholic sacramental marriage, call the Rectory for more information about a Convalidation. Convalidation is having a couple's marriage recognized and blessed by the Church through the Catholic Rite of Marriage.

Marriage:

Arrangements must be made at least six to twelve months in advance. It is advisable to call the church prior to arranging the reception.

Rite of Christian Initiation (R.C.I.A.):

Persons interested in becoming Catholic and adults who have not received Confirmation or First Eucharist, please contact the rectory office.

Communion for the Homebound:

To make arrangements to have Communion brought to the home, please call the parish office at 363-6385, ext. 110. For emergency sick calls, please call the parish at any time.

Baptisms:

Call the rectory office to schedule a Baptism



Major Meghan Ederle

Major Kyle Brown

Major Robert Gervasio

Capt. Evan Bernstein

Lt. Sean Brown

LTJG Shannon Wojciechowski

LTJG Douglas Wojciechowski

LTJG Thomas Adair

DO, CPT, MC Kate Desmond-Baker

TSgt. Mark C. Erickson

SMSGT Harold L. Erickson

E3/ACAN Connor Rooney USN

Sgt. Samuel Campanella

Lt. Robert Fleming

Lt. Ross Oley

Pray for Our Sick

We pray for all who are sick, for their healing in both body and spirit....

In Sympathy

For all who have died this past week, that they rejoice in the heavenly banquet...

Carol Thorn



Altar Bread and Wine

In Memory of Richard & Marie Affenita

Sanctuary Candle in Mother Church

In Memory of Mahoney Family

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT:
\$ 7753.00

DAILY MASSES:

Monday - Friday 8:30 AM
in Large Church

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday 5:00 PM in Large Church
Sunday 7:30 AM in Large Church
9:00 AM and 11:00 AM in Large Church

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM
in Large Church

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

Monday 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
in Mother Church

ROSARY:

Wednesday December 23, 4:45 pm
Mother Church

Mass Intentions
FOR THE WEEK



Sunday	Dec 20,
7:30 AM	Rose DiToro †
9:00 AM	Parishioners
11:00 AM	Guy Newham †
Monday	Dec 21, St Peter Canisius
8:30 AM	Kevin Maloney †
Tuesday	Dec 22,
8:30 AM	Kathryn Scottaline †
Wednesday	Dec 23, St John of Kanty
8:30 AM	Deceased members of Zielazny & Townsend Families †
Thursday	Dec 24, Christmas Eve
2:30 AM	Christine & Tony Tuozzo †
3:00 PM	Bridgette Horstmann †
3:30 PM	Charles Mintzer †
4:00 PM	Domenica Nolan †
4:30 PM	Kenneth Strange †
5:00 PM	Daniel & Marion Farrell †
10:00 PM	Gaspar Romano †
Midnight	Bob Russell †
Friday	Dec 25, Christmas Day
7:30 AM	Emanuel Paul Malizia †
	James Libertelli †
9:00 AM	Theresa Marcello †
	Jean Delaney (Living)
11:00 AM	Budzinski Family
11:30 AM	Deceased members of the Manie Family
Saturday	Dec 26,
5:00 PM	Michael Echevarria †
Sunday	Dec 27,
7:30 AM	Kenneth Lofink †
9:00 AM	Parishioners
11:00 AM	Richard Affenita †





Christmas Mass Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE:

2:30 PM Large Church (FULL)

3:00 PM Mother Church (FULL)

3:30 PM Large Church (FULL)

4:00 PM Mother Church

4:30 PM Large Church

5:00 PM Mother Church

10:00 PM Large Church

Midnight Large Church

CHRISTMAS DAY:

7:30 AM Large Church

9:00 AM Large Church

11:00 AM Large Church

11:30 AM Mother Church

We are NOT taking reservation, but please call us and let us know what mass you want to go to so we can get a head count.

If we see masses filling up we will encourage you to go to a different mass.

Merry Christmas!

We would like to thank all of our parishioners who throughout 2020 have been so generous. This has been a challenging time for so many, yet the parishioners of OLS truly exemplify "love thy neighbor".

The gift cards, food and monetary donations to our Parish Outreach, have been constant. Those of you who have made your Sunday contributions to Our Lady of the Snow a priority, even when you were unable to attend mass, please know you have made a difference in your giving.

The volunteers who usher, proclaim the word, the extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, as well as the people who help disinfect the church after mass. Volunteers who help lock up the church, turn on and off the lights and microphones and who say 'yes' when asked for assistance. To those who help decorate the church, even during a pandemic. Thank you.

We miss our parishioners who are unable to come back to mass right now, but please know you are in our prayers. We wish for your family, health, love, joy and peace today and always. May God bless you and your family and keep you all safe during this Christmas Season!

Thank you!



Gospel Reflection by Michael Dawidziak

“Keep the Spirit of Christmas alive all year long”. That’s a sentiment we’ve heard so often that it’s become cliché and maybe lost much of its meaning. To many, it lost its magic. Well, Christmas is a time to rediscover the magic. The secularization of Christmas has ironically made it a time when people overindulge in the material world. Christmas is when the magic should come alive for us. I mean the real magic. The spiritual and supernatural reality of the love of God made manifest in our world.

After almost two months of advertisements, non-stop holiday music on the radio and in stores and near complete exhaustion, most people I know can’t wait for Christmas to be over. They’ve actually overdosed on Christmas. “If I have to listen to “Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer” one more time, I’m going to lose it!” You actually see Christmas trees out front of some people’s houses on December 26th! And that’s a shame because they’ve missed the best part of what it’s all about. In the classic Christmas movie, “Miracle on 34th Street”, Kris Kringle says “Christmas isn’t just a day, it’s a frame of mind”. Even old Ebenezer Scrooge, after his conversion declares, “I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.”

How do we keep the Spirit of Christmas alive in our hearts all year long? By saying yes to God. In today’s Sunday gospel reading we hear about the most famous “yes” in all of history. Mary’s *fiat* (let it be done). The yes of this poor, uneducated, teenage Jewish girl, agreeing to be the mother of God’s child, was the pathway to salvation for all mankind. But Mary didn’t just say yes for a day. She didn’t say, “Okay, I’ll give birth to the baby and then I’m done”. No. She said yes to a flight into Egypt. She said yes to searching for three days for the lost boy. She said yes to a lifetime of pondering these things in her heart. She said yes to being the impetus for her son’s first miracle at the Wedding Feast of Cana (“Do whatever He tells you”). She said yes to a sword piercing her soul. She said yes to standing at the foot of the Cross. And she said yes to being there at the birth of the Church at the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

We need to be like Mary and say yes to God but not just for a day. Our yes needs to be for the entire year and our whole lives. Like Mary, we won’t know what our yes will actually entail but we do know it will be miraculous. That’s where trust comes in. We must trust that God’s plan is the right plan, even if we can’t see the outcome. In the reading of the Second Book of Samuel, God promises David that He “will raise up your heir after you” and “make his kingdom firm”. “Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me”. By the time of Mary’s yes, that promise must have seemed impossible. The Davidic royal line had died out years before. And now the Jewish people were occupied by the most powerful nation on earth: The Roman Empire. The Jewish people were hoping for a mighty warrior king who would deliver them from their bondage, not an infant. Like many people today, they were so concerned with earthly matters, they completely missed the best part of the meaning of Christ’s birth. God fulfilled His promise in a way that few could have foreseen but was so much better than anyone expected. A descendant of David would establish a Heavenly Kingdom that would endure and stand firm forever.

And how about the shepherds? A heavenly host of angels tells them that their savior has been born in Bethlehem “who is Christ the Lord”. They’re excited (wouldn’t you be?). The miracle of Christmas had been displayed and explained directly to them. They hurry to Bethlehem to see this thing “which the Lord has made known to us.” They “returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen”. Do you think this one day was the end of it for them? Can you hear them a few years later saying to one another, “I wonder what happened to that kid from Bethlehem”? Maybe some of them lived long enough to hear about Jesus’ life, death and resurrection.

That’s the way it is with us. When we say yes to God, we’re not just saying yes to Christmas. We say yes to Good Friday. We say yes to Easter. We say yes to the birth of Christ in our hearts but we also say yes to Him living there all year long



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2020

To the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre:

When he was elected as a Successor of St. Peter on March 13, 2013, our Holy Father chose the name *Francis*. It was a weighty decision with a prophetic message. Especially now, seven years later and with the publication of his latest encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* from the tomb of St. Francis of Assisi on October 3, 2020, the significance of the choice is clear: Pope Francis connects his papacy to St. Francis.

Through the ministry of our Holy Father, St. Francis of Assisi is close to the Church in these times. Therefore, as we draw near to Bethlehem at the end of this difficult year, I wish to recall two points Pope Francis highlights from the life of St. Francis. One will help us celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord; the other indicates a grace for which to pray during the holy season.

First, in his 2019 Apostolic Letter *Admirabile Signum: On the Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene*, Pope Francis emphasizes St. Francis of Assisi's foundational role in our celebration of Christmas. The Holy Father recalls the origins of the crèche and the first nativity scene inspired by the holy friar in 1223, by which the saint sought "to bring to life the memory of that babe born in Bethlehem." Importantly, the remembrance of Christ's birth that St. Francis desired to convey was brought alive in Greccio, a small village in Italy, not by statues but by people from the surrounding towns and countryside. Together with St. Francis, his friars, an ox and a donkey, they gathered at a cave to behold a manger full of hay over which the Eucharist was celebrated. That Christmas night, almost 800 years ago, Pope Francis reminds us, "the nativity scene was enacted and experienced by all who were present." That night, there was "no distance between the original event and those sharing in its mystery." (2) Encountering Christ, there was simply joy and hope.

This Christmas, in our world laden with the Crosses of COVID-19, political and economic turmoil, racism, financial hardship, and so many other societal ills and challenges – challenges that impact us on Long Island – let us remember this lesson from Greccio: Christmas is an event to be lived. It demands our participation. Like the women and men who embodied that first crèche, we must be present to Christ who is born for us. We must behold and receive Him.

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

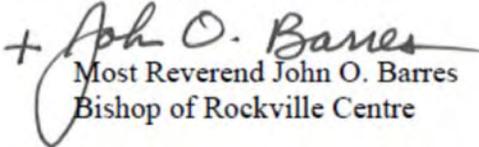
Second, in *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis shows St. Francis as an icon of Christocentric-listening. With great humility and charity, the saint reverently listened to others. He was present to the various voices in his life – the voice of God, the voice of his neighbor, the voice of the poor, the voice of the sick, the voice of nature – and by truly hearing them, he was an instrument of peace, healing, and understanding. How different it can be for us! The Holy Father says well what we know: “Today’s world is largely a deaf world...At times, the frantic pace of the modern world prevents us from listening attentively to what another person is saying.” Aware of this fact, the Pope encourages us, in the midst of our hectic and polarized world, to be like St. Francis and “not lose our ability to listen.” (48)

This Christmas, when we approach the crib, let us ask for the grace to be attentive listeners. Let us ask for the grace to be like St. Francis, so that we may hear the voice of God and the voice of our neighbor and respond with the radical charity he exhibited.¹

Like Pope Francis, may we be moved by the example of St. Francis, and may St. Francis of Assisi’s love for the Mystery of the Nativity, his ecstatic mysticism, his love for the poor, and his spirit of universal fraternity animate our celebration of Christmas this year.

May God bless you and your families this Christmas.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ 
Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre