

*The Parish Family of
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church*

One Passaic Street, Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450
www.olmcridgewood.com

COME WORSHIP WITH US

WEEKENDS

Saturday: 5:30pm

Sunday: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am
12:30pm, 3:00pm (Spanish) and 6:30pm

WEEKDAYS

6:30am, 8:30am and 12:00 noon

Saturdays: 8:30am

HOLY DAYS

Eve: 7:30pm (anticipated)

6:30am, 8:30am, and 12:00 noon

First Sunday of Lent ~ February 18, 2024



REPENT, AND
BELIEVE IN THE
GOSPEL. - MK 1:15

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT



PARISH DIRECTORY
www.olmcridgeewood.com

Parish Office: 1 Passaic Street, Ridgewood, NJ 07450-4309

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Parish Office Hours

Monday-Friday—9AM-8PM | Saturday-Sunday—9AM-2PM

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Dear Friends,

On this 1st Sunday of Lent, the Church invites us onto a journey of renewal in our spiritual life. It is a time to renew our commitment to Jesus Christ and His Kingdom, if it's gone a little cold through all the struggles of living, facing as we do, almost every day, new experiences of violence, war, terrorist threats and political wrangling. And that's not to mention the interior and personal struggles of our own private lives. On these next few Sundays, I want to spend a little more time on the Sunday scriptures, especially the Gospels, as each week we take this Lenten journey together. You know that I do the last page of the bulletin, the brief explanation of the weekly scripture and the reflections for the week. And the online version of the bulletin is available on our website on Fridays. As we have done now for several years, the exegesis of the readings, and the reflection questions that follow, also appears on the live stream, and the church monitors and the worship aid, offering the possibility for everyone to spend a few extra moments trying to see what God, through the Sacred Word, is speaking to us in these days. If you can do this before Mass, either at home or by getting to church a few minutes early, you will be better prepared to hear the readings and the homily which follows. For the next several weeks I just want to expand on this a little in my column.

First, a word about the 1st Readings for these first five weeks of Lent. As a faithful Jew, Jesus, in His preaching and teaching, reflected the Israelite identity as bound to a covenant relationship with God, a contract with God. In this covenant, Israel had responsibilities, God had responsibilities. But that understanding came about only slowly. Today's 1st Reading centers on the covenant with Noah, as God begins to form that relationship. Next Sunday it will center on Abraham, as God further defines that relationship. On the third Sunday, the covenant will become very specific, concretizing itself on Mount Sinai (in the Ten Commandments). The fourth Sunday's Old Testament reading will highlight Israel's failures relative to the covenant and the fifth Sunday's reading will bring us the promise of a new covenant which, we know as Christians, is the covenant in the blood of Jesus Christ.

Now on to today's Gospel. You'll notice something extraordinary in Mark's recounting of Jesus' temptation in the desert. It's short; it's really short, only two verses. It doesn't include the familiar allusions to the three-fold temptations, the bread/stone episode, the jumping off the Temple trick, or the kingdoms of the world promise. But it does say some eye-catching things in those short sentences, if only we're paying attention.

The first is that the Spirit "drove him out into the desert." **Drove** him. That's a pretty strong word. Jesus had just been baptized by John in the Jordan, and the Spirit had descended upon him, the same Spirit that now drives Jesus into the desert. There is an aura of compulsion contained in that word, but not by an outside force. In theology we know the Spirit comes forth from the Father and the Son. And so this **driving** is more of an interior compulsion. Jesus is driven into the desert, from deep within himself, to face, not a test, but to face his ultimate purpose as Son, to confront Satan. Mark is the only evangelist to use here that proper name—Satan. Matthew and Luke

simply say the devil. But Mark says Satan, meaning the *adversary*. In less than ten verses after these, Jesus will perform his first miracle, driving out an unclean spirit (which we heard three weeks ago). And they will ask him, “have you come to destroy us?” And the answer is yes. Jesus is confronting the *adversary*, God’s *adversary* and human kind’s *adversary*, in an epic struggle of God on behalf of His creation, you and me. It is a struggle that begins here in the desert, the habitat of the evil spirits. Right in their own backyard, as it were, on their turf. God, in Jesus, is taking the fight to them, a fight He will win on the cross and in the empty tomb.

Interesting to note is the reference to the wild beasts and the angels. Some scholars believe that placing the two together is not so much a reference to that good vs. evil battle, as it is a prefiguring, a sort of prediction by Mark that the result of struggle, begun here but won on the cross, will be the restoration of creation as God intended it and Isaiah prophesied, the beasts (evil) and the angels (good) living together, as one with the One who unites all things in Himself.

Now what does this have to do with us, as we begin this Lent? We’re given that answer in the last verses. Jesus returns from the desert and immediately begins preaching, the Kingdom is at hand, **Believe!** I was reading an interesting commentary on the Gospel of Mark by a spiritual writer who offered a life-changing insight that the original followers of Jesus imitated him long before they worshipped him. This then might be seen as our Lenten challenge—to do, in our lives, what Jesus just did—to confront evil, the adversary, face-to-face, in these days of Lent, and, for us, to change what needs changing. To confront our sins, head-on, and say no to them. If we want to follow Jesus’ lead, we need to do something about what holds us back from being holier, nothing less will do. And holier doesn’t really mean living a better moral life. Holier means living in a closer relationship with the Lord, living with Jesus at the center of our lives, as the source and summit of who we are. And we don’t do this alone or by our own strength. Jesus will lead us in this struggle.

Have a holy Lent!

God Bless,
Fr. Ron

PS. A word on the Annual Appeal. We’ve gotten off to a really good start with over 163 households already having pledged their support. Let’s not lose that momentum. If you are not yet part of us, please make a pledge today, either online (look for the APPEAL link on our homepage), or through the pledge materials mailed to your home, or the pledge envelopes on the tables at the doors of the church. More to come.

All are Welcome!

Join us for Morning Prayer Monday-Friday—6:00AM
Lower Level of the School Building

Enter through the rear door.



Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday during Lent, immediately following the 12NN daily Mass.
All are welcome!

ANNUAL ²⁰²⁴ APPEAL

Donate online: www.rcan.org/sharing

Make sure to select **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel—Ridgewood**
From the drop-down menu

Checks (payable: 2024 Annual Appeal) may also be placed in the collection basket, in the boxes at the doors of the church, or mailed/dropped off at the rectory.

STEWARDSHIP

“The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the Gospel.” Jesus’ words in today’s Gospel call every believer to be part of that “kingdom building.” The Christian Steward does so by using his/her gifts of **Time, Talent and Treasure**. How do you build the Kingdom?

The parish Stewardship of Treasure last week was \$14,389. God bless your generosity in building the Kingdom. As part of your Lenten observance this year, perhaps you might want to think of using electronic giving—**WeShare**—as a good way to help the parish ministries continue. Simply click on the graphic image on our website homepage.



A recurring online gift to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel is the best way to sustain the mission of this parish all year long.



Look for the **WeShare** link on our homepage, scan this QR Code, or call 877.316.0260

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW! DRAWINGS BEGIN MARCH 8TH!

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Contact Erin O'Halloran for Tickets
erinohalloran@rocketmail.com, 917.621.7241

Cash or Check—\$20/ticket

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92 Chances to Win!!! ~ \$9,800 in Prizes!!!

How to Report Abuse

The Archdiocese takes very seriously any and all allegations of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy, Religious and lay staff of the Archdiocese. We encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct to inform us so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse. Call the Coordinator of the Office of Accompaniment in the Archdiocesan Department for the Protection of the Faithful at: **201.407.3256**

In honor of Presidents' Day

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED MONDAY—FEBRUARY 19TH

NO CONFESSIONS MONDAY EVENING

The only Mass celebrated will be at 8:30AM.
A Priest is always available for emergencies.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



2024 Academy of Our Lady Lenten Dinner (Takeout)

Friday, March 1, 2024

5:30pm PICK UP ONLY

**Holmes Building
Academy of Our Lady
@ St. Catharine's, Glen Rock**

1. Lemon Sole Sandwich
2. Tuna Wrap, Lettuce/Tomato
3. Grilled Eggplant Wrap
4. All Veggie Wrap
5. Mozzarella Burrata Salad

All Options \$13/each
Catered by La Strada, Midland Park

Proceeds benefit Academy of Our Lady. Preorder no later than Monday, February 26th at:

<https://payit.nelnet.net/form/phbLvBZnaddpaylink>

Questions? Contact Jadyn, jadyn.a.miller@outlook.com



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

On Saturday, February 17, 2024, Cardinal Joseph Tobin celebrated the RCIA Rite of the Call to Continuing Conversion at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in the Archdiocese of Newark. It is a rite to encourage the baptized candidates in their catechesis of the Catholic Church and conversions to receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist during Easter.

The 2024 OLMC baptized candidates are: Ava Brett, Thomas Connors, Micaela Loa, Stephanie McConville, Wendoly Mora, Frank Ortiz, and Jackeline Ponce. Four of them are to receive Confirmation only and three are to receive both Confirmation and Eucharist. The Mass celebration will be at OLMC on the Second Sunday of Easter on April 7, 2024.

On Sunday, February 25, 2024, 11:00 AM Mass, Fr. Ron will celebrate the RCIA Rite of Acceptance. It is the rite that officially welcomes a non-baptized inquirer into the journey of the catechumenate. The catechumen is to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist on the Easter Vigil. The parish has two catechumens, Dariann (Dee) Zorilla and Peter Choe. By God's graces, they will be fully initiated into the Catholic Church on Saturday, April 19, 2025, at the Easter Vigil.

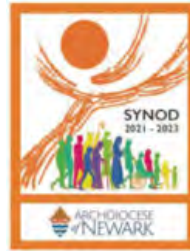
The OLMC RCIA team has been accompanying these candidates and catechumens throughout the year to provide spiritual guidance and to enlighten them about the Catholic faith.

All parishioners are invited to please pray for and encourage these candidates and catechumens.

**THURSDAY EVENING ROSARY
OUR LADY'S CHAPEL—7:30PM
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

SYNOD LISTENING SESSIONS

The Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops has asked local dioceses to hold further listening sessions in preparation for this October's Assembly in Rome. To fulfill this request, the Archdiocese will host several sessions for priests, the Spanish-speaking community, and the general public at various locations throughout February and March. The purpose of these sessions is to DEEPEN the conversation around ways to engage all the baptized in full participation in the mission of the Church. We will be using the synodal process of Conversation in the Spirit



March 8, 2024—6:45PM-9:00PM

St. John Paul II Youth Retreat Center
Sacred Heart Center (under the church)
499 Belgrove Drive, Kearny
Light Supper available at 6:15PM

March 14, 2024—6:45PM-9:00PM

St. Helen, Westfield Parish Center
1600 Rahway Avenue, Westfield
Light Supper available at 6:15PM

RSVP: <https://forms.gle/gjZgeZv1pjAzprAa7>

Please RSVP no later than Wednesday, February 28th!

Your registration will be confirmed and materials and reading assignments will be sent ahead of time. Reading and prayerful preparation is essential for this process of Conversation in the Spirit and discernment. We look forward to seeing you!

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY LITURGIES TO BE CELEBRATED

**AT THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF THE SACRED HEART
CELEBRANT: CARDINAL JOSEPH TOBIN, C.Ss.R**

We are excited to announce that we are preparing the annual tradition of honoring those couples in our Archdiocese who will be celebrating five, twenty-five and fifty years of valid marriage for the Catholic faithful in the year 2024.

May 5, 2024 12:00 Noon 5 & 25 Years

Deadline to Register

Thursday, April 25, 2024

June 2, 2024 12:00 Noon 50 Years

Deadline to Register

Tuesday, May 21, 2024



**To register contact Patti Roche
proche@olmcridgewood.com, 201.444.2000 x200**

Note: If your Silver or Gold Anniversary celebration was delayed due to COVID (or for any other reason) you may still join us this year. Certificates will still say "Silver" or "Gold" - not the actual current number of married years.

SAVE THE DATE!

**SPECIAL MOMS EVENING MEETING!
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20TH | 7PM | PARISH CENTER**

Can't make morning meetings? No worries! We will be holding a special evening meeting to pray the Stations of the Cross and discuss how it relates to our motherhood journey.



**PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
(PEA)**

**CHAPEL IS OPEN 24/7
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

SCHEDULED ADORERS URGENTLY NEEDED

Tuesdays: 2-3AM; Fridays: 2-3AM, 4-5AM

Contact Cynthia—551.574.1063, cynthiabtorres@yahoo.com

The Deadline to RSVP for the PEA Communion Breakfast has passed. If you have any questions, contact Cynthia—551.574.1063

Italian Apostolate of the Archdiocese of Newark presents...
CABRINI

**Friday, March 8th | 7PM | Hawthorne Theaters
300 Lafayette Avenue, Hawthorne**

The Italian Apostolate of Newark is sponsoring a premier showing of CABRINI. Tickets are \$20/each and includes admission, a Q&A session featuring a special guest, and a donation to the Apostolate. Tickets available at: cabrini.ticketleap.com
Come celebrate the life of this local saint, Mother Cabrini, and all she did for the Italian-American community and our area!

Men's Weekend Retreat at Loyola

May 3-5, 2024

Loyola Jesuit Center in Moristown, NJ

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SPENT QUIET TIME LISTENING TO THE LORD?

Please join Men from our parish family for a quiet listening Retreat. A Retreat is a time to come away from the busy world and reflect on your spiritual life. The weekend Retreat theme is: *"Being on Mission with the Jesuits"*. For example, our decision to marry, career path decisions, where to live decisions and, most importantly, our spiritual decisions. The weekend includes a detailed review of the Retreat Theme, Daily Mass, Reconciliation, a Healing Mass, optional private consultations with retreat leaders, outdoor stations of the cross and generous amounts of free time for personal prayer and reflection. It is truly a wonderful experience, and the cost is a free will offering. All are welcome at Loyola regardless of financial status. For more information contact:

Dcn. Bob Liwanag, 201.663.3644,
bob.liwanag@olmcridgewood.com

Bob Reilly, 201.447.2430,
rpreilly1@hotmail.com

To register, visit www.loyola.org or use this QR code.



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Timothy Bombace, Aedan Cannon, Edgar Delgado,
Durkin McCarthy, John Morano,
James Nardelli, Robert Smith

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sun. Feb. 18	1:00PM Bell Choir Rehearsal (PCB) 1:30PM RCIA (MR) 2:15PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 4:00PM Spanish Apostolate (PCA) 4:30PM Spanish>English Class (Library)
Mon. Feb. 19	PRESIDENTS' DAY—PARISH CLOSED 5:00PM Summer Heatt Basketball (Gym)
Tue. Feb. 20	5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 5:00PM Choir Rehearsal (Church) 7:00PM ChristLife (PC) 7:30PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)
Wed. Feb. 21	9:00AM MOMs Core Team Meeting (SMR) 3:45PM Jr. High Grade 7 Makeup (PC) 4:00PM First Eucharist Preparation (Church) 5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:00PM First Eucharist Preparation (Church) 7:00PM Spanish Choir Rehearsal (Church) 7:15PM WCST Team 23 (MR) 7:30PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)
Thur. Feb. 22	10:30AM Sunday Scripture Reflection (SMR) 5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 6:00PM NCW-3 (NCW-A) 8:00PM Pre-Cana (NCW-A)
Fri. Feb. 23	9:30AM MOMs SALT (SMR) 5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym)
Sat. Feb. 24	8:00AM ChristLife Retreat (PC) 8:00AM Deacon Meeting (NCW) 8:30AM Men's Basketball (Gym) 9:00AM AoOL Girls Basketball (Gym) 10:30AM Spanish Bible Study Team Mtg (SMR) 12:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 6:00PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)

SAVE THE DATE

**Knights of Columbus
St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance
Saturday, March 9, 2024**



**Mark Your Calendars Now!
Dinner! Dancing! Entertainment!**

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE ILL MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH

Joan Donegan Alsa, Gilbert Badillo, Frederick Bruno, Mike Bucci, Art Carpenter, Kimberly Parsons Daub, Maura Gillen Eidschun, Marie Evans, Kay & Bill Forster, Joan D'Gerolamo, Kenneth Gershbort, Frank Gillen, Susan Hart-White, Patricia Haug, Joseph Hyon, Marc Johnson, Tom Keleher, Claudia LaFrance, Joseph Letiza, Anna Lobascio, Joel Lustberg, Cambell McArthur, Margaret Peak, Cathy Ricciuto, Francis Tedaro Ristor, Michael Runz, Don Strittmatter, Larry Switaj, Nickolas John Tedaro, Dennis Tomala, Walter John Zelop, Jr.

Parishioners may call the Rectory with the name of a family member who is sick to have them included in our prayers.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



Monday, Feb. 19

8:30AM For the People of the Parish

Tuesday, Feb. 20

+ **6:30AM Guida Borella**

req Suzanne Casey

+ **8:30AM Geoffrey Gaspari**

req Linda Bullaro & Family

+ **12:00NN Juliann Franchina &**

James A. Franchina

req Their Family

Wednesday, Feb. 21 *Saint Peter Damian,*

Bishop and Doctor of the Church

+ **6:30AM Henry Romani**

req Robert Kearns

+ **8:30AM Vincenzo Badalamenti**

req Jeanette & Dennis DePrimo & Family

+ **12:00NN Larry & Mary Hanlon**

req The Bolduc Family

Thursday, Feb. 22 *The Chair of Saint Peter The Apostle*

+ **6:30AM Living & Deceased**

Members of the Uber Family

req Steven & Yvonne Uber

+ **8:30AM Capt. Dillon Rinaldo**

req Tara Miller-Jones

+ **12:00NN Angelo Bove**

req Joel & Michelle Lustberg

Friday, Feb. 23 *Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr*

+ **6:30AM Carmela Romano**

req Anna Anagnos

+ **8:30AM Theresa Gilligan**

req Debbie & Kayla Figueroa

+ **12:00NN Phyllis Naumescu & Jessie Nappo**

req Amalia & Morris Vieira-Gomes

Saturday, Feb. 24

+ **8:30AM Mary Ann McGovern**

req Annabelle Pacifico

+ **5:30PM The Giuseppe Lepore Family**

req Grace & Pat Gallo

Sunday, Feb. 25 *Second Sunday of Lent*

+ **8:00AM Robert Thomann, Jr.**

req His Parents

+ **9:30AM Kenneth Stueben**

req The Bucco & Ferrara Families

11:00AM For the People of the Parish

+ **12:30PM Danny McGinley**

req His Family

3:00PM Special Intention

of Guiseppina DiMartino & Family

req Alicia & Leopoldo DiMartino

+ **6:30PM Marie Idone**

req Myles Campbell & Family

TODAY'S READINGS

1. Genesis 9:8-15

The flood waters have receded, the land is dry and Noah and his family have disembarked the Ark. But could it, would it happen again, "since the desires of man's heart are evil from the start" (Genesis 8:21). Knowing their fears, God offers a word of comfort, a promise and a sign. The promise—He will never again destroy life through the waters of a flood. The sign—the rainbow, the witness to God's love for and benevolence to humankind.

2. 1 Peter 3:18-22

Peter writes words of encouragement to a suffering and unnamed Christian community, probably somewhere in Asia Minor, reminding them they are saved in the suffering, death and Resurrection of Christ, a salvation they experience through their own baptism, just as Noah was saved in the waters of the great flood. All creation, past and present, is subject to this glorified Christ.

3. Mark 1:12-15

In just a few short lines, Mark presents a summary of his entire Gospel, Jesus ushers in the Kingdom in the here and now. There is an urgency in the call for radical change and the challenge to accept in faith this Good News. It will not be easy as there will be a constant struggle with Satan who will seek to turn you away from God with his temptations. But God is near. How could you not believe?

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK

1. Do I believe my life is like Noah's—wrapped around a covenant of graciousness from God?
2. What are the areas of temptation and misplaced desires or loyalties in my life?
3. In what ways does God support me in my struggles (like the angels in the desert)?

NEXT WEEKEND'S PRESIDERS

(always subject to change)

Sat. 2/24	5:30PM	Fr. Jakov
Sun. 2/25	8:00AM	Fr. Frank
	9:30AM	Fr. Frank
	11:00AM	Fr. Ron
	12:30PM	Fr. Ron
	3:00PM	Fr. Jakov
	6:30PM	Fr. Jakov

Late changes appear on the website after 12:00NN on the Saturday of that weekend.



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