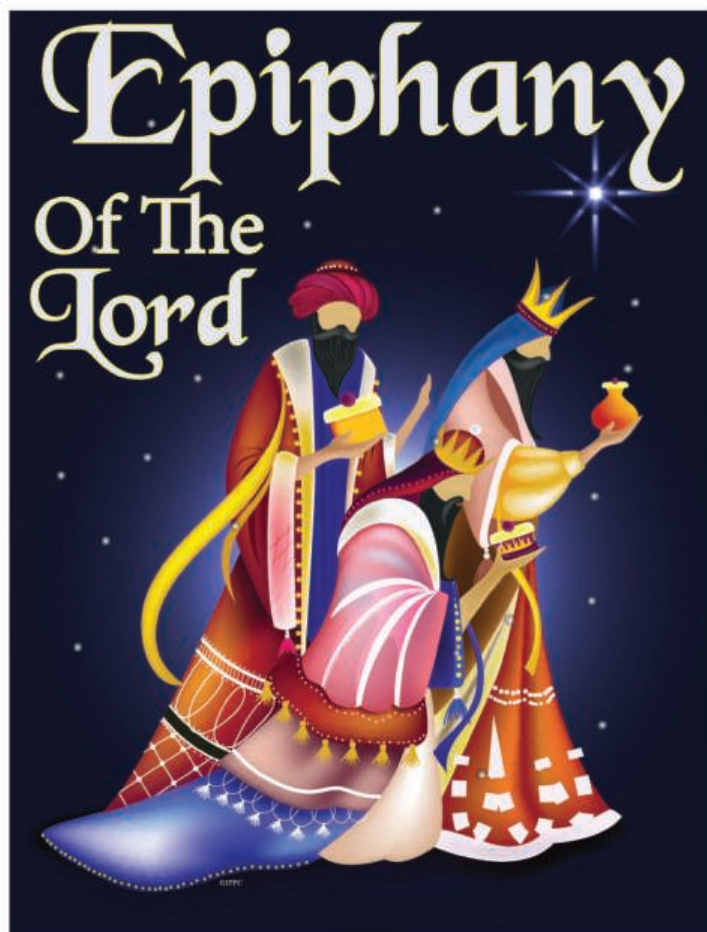


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Township of Washington*



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Assisting Priests: Rev. Thomas J. Norton
Rev. Stephen J. Toth
Rev. Mr. Robert Glasner, Deacon
Mrs. Jennifer De Caux, Director of Rel. Ed.
Mrs. Patricia Marcinek, Parish Secretary

Rectory: 201-664-6624
Fax: 201-664-0095
E-mail: olgwt@aol.com

Parish Web Site: <http://www.olgwt.org>

Religious Education & Youth Ministry Office
201-664-1679
olgcreligioused@gmail.com
Web site: <http://www.olgwt.org/wordpress>

Sunday Masses: Saturday 5:00 pm, Sunday
8:00 and 11:00 am

Confessions: By appointment. Call the rectory
at 201-664-6624

Daily Mass: 8:45 am

****** FROM THE PASTOR ******

The Christmas Season is a time for giving gifts. We give Christmas presents to express our love for family members and friends, and to thank them for being an important part of our lives, and for all that they have done for us.

Today's Gospel is about presents, in fact, what we might call the first Christmas presents.

Led by a shining star, Magi from the East come to Jerusalem seeking the newborn king of the Jews. When they find him in Bethlehem, they offer him gifts that reveal something about this child.

The gift of gold hints at his royalty, frankincense at his divinity, and myrrh at his future suffering and death.

But besides those three gifts, the Magi give another gift. They give the new-born king the gift of their presence.

Their coming to be with Jesus, Mary and Joseph is an even more wonderful gift than the material ones they bring.

That is still true today. Visiting someone, being with another person, is a wonderful and appreciated gift.

Hugs and kisses, companionship and kindness, sharing a meal, or just sitting quietly with a loved one, far outweigh any virtual encounter. Just ask any grandparent if a Zoom session substitutes for their grandchildren jumping into their arms when they arrive for a visit!

The Christmas present we most like to receive from people who are dear to us is to have them with us. Their presence is the most precious gift. That was the best gift given by the Magi, and it is also the best gift that God gave mankind that first Christmas.

Through the miracle of Christmas, God took on flesh and came to be present with his people in the Child of Bethlehem. That presence of God continues to this day in the bread and wine of the Eucharist.

In this season of giving, on this day when we recall the gifts of the Magi, and we remember that the best gift we can give others is to be present with them, let us keep in mind that it's also the best gift we can give to God, our heavenly Father.

When discussing our New Year's resolutions with family and friend's, perhaps we might encourage them to consider making regular Sunday Mass attendance one of their resolutions. What better way to start a New Year, than by resolving to give our best to God?

Our best present is our presence!

God Bless,
Fr. Ray

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The tradition of giving gifts at Christmas is thought by some to be rooted in the gift giving of the Magi. In many cultures, gifts are not exchanged at Christmas, but rather on the feast of the Epiphany. Whenever you exchange your Christmas gifts, take some time to reflect on this tradition of gift giving at Christmas. Think of the best gift you have received. What was it? What made it special? Was it the gift itself, the thought that went into it, or the person who gave it to you?

Read today's Gospel, Matthew 2:1-12. The gifts of the Magi—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—have come to be understood as symbols of Christ's royalty, divinity, and eventual suffering and death. They are special because in giving them, the Magi acknowledge who Jesus was to be: our Savior. We pray that we will acknowledge Jesus as Savior in all that we do and say. Conclude by singing together "We Three Kings." (Credit: Loyola Press)



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

YOUTH GROUP meets this Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the Youth Room.

Our **First Reconciliation retreat** is scheduled for Saturday, January 27th from 10am-12pm in the Rackley Room and Church. Please pray for our second graders as they continue their faith journey to receiving their next sacrament.

PARISH NEWS

PARISH FOOD COLLECTION - Let us not forget our food pantry. There is still a great need for donations of non-perishable food, paper products, personal hygiene items, etc. The suggested donations are **Pasta and Sauce, Peanut Butter and Jelly and Tuna**. We thank you in advance for helping those who are less fortunate than most of us. Donations may be placed in the basket at the back of the church.



CONGRATULATIONS CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS
Last weeks winners of our calendar raffle were: December 29 - Bart Losquadro, December 30 - Holly Cocozzo, December 31 - Mary and Jeff Siconolfi, January 1 - Stephanie Senkevich, January 2 - Nilda Roura, January 3 - Michelle Domato, January 4 - Ron Strubberg. Tickets are available in the rectory for the remainder of the raffle which runs until January 31st

2025 MASS BOOK will open on Tuesday, January 9th.

MEN'S CLUB VIDEO - As we enter the ordinary time of the church calendar the men's group would like to invite our brothers and sisters to join us for a short video from the "Chosen". It will be presented Saturday, January 13th, following the 8:45 Mass in the Rackley Room. There will be light refreshments and time for fellowship afterward. In this coming Sunday's readings, we hear about Samuel, and how he was not familiar with the Lord calling him, like Samuel we too at times don't hear the Lord. Are you willing to come and join us to see if the Lord will whisper something to you?

FLOCK -We love having you as a part of our Flock! Keep in touch with us via email and text! Text OLGWWT to 84576 to receive alerts of parish events and news right to your phone! There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may apply. View full privacy policy & terms at flocknote.com/txt.

PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE WEEK OF JAN, 7TH

Let us pray this week that those who have not been practicing their faith and those who have not found faith may have an epiphany to the presence of Jesus in their lives and join the Church.

STEWARDSHIP

Sunday Collection 12/23 & 24, 2023	\$ 6,860.00
Last Year	\$13,937.00 *
Increase	\$ 1,373.00

Last year this included the Christmas Collection.

Christmas Collection amounted to \$8,450.00.
Electronic giving for the month of December was \$5,815.00.

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

ANCIENT GREECE & EPHEBUS - Fr. Stephen Toth will be leading a pilgrimage in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul to Ancient Greece and Ephesus including a 4 day cruise on the Aegean Sea to the Greek Isles from April 29th to May 10th, 2024. For more information call Syversen Touring at 1-800-334-5425.

WESTWOOD REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT will open online Kindergarten pre-registration for the 2024-25 school year on Wednesday, January 3, 2024. Your child must reside in the Borough of Westwood or Township of Washington **and** be five (5) years old on or before October 1, 2024 to enter Kindergarten in September. Please visit the district's website to complete the online pre-registration process, review important registration procedures, and download the required checklist and forms. When visiting the district website, navigate to MENU, FAMILIES and select STUDENT REGISTRATION.

ST. JOSEPH REGIONAL HS, MONTVALE, NJ presents "LES MISERABLES". The cast is made up of talented boys from St. Joe's and girls from a variety of high schools in Bergen, Rockland, and Westchester Counties, as well as from NYC. Performances will take place at the Inserra Theater on the campus of St. Joseph's Regional HS on January 26th at 7:00 pm, January 27th at 2:00 and 7:00 pm, January 28th at 3:00 pm, February 2nd at 7:00 pm and February 3rd at 2:00 and 7:00 pm. There is a special Senior Citizen's Preview Performance on Wednesday, January 24th, at 3:00 pm including a special nosh and a pre-show discussion at 2:15 pm, all for \$10.00 Tickets can be purchased the day of the show at the nosh. Regular tickets are \$17.00 and \$23.00 and are on sale now through SJR.Booktix.com or in person one half-hour before each show. Questions should be sent to SJRTheater@sjrmj.org or by calling 201-391-7422.

SINGLES SUPPORT GROUP from St. Peter's Parish in River Edge, NJ is sponsoring a trip to Texas from March 6th to 13th, 2024. Fly from Newark to Dallas where bus tour begins. From Dallas, travel to Fort Worth, Waco, San Antonio and Houston, Tour includes bus transportation, 7 nights hotels, 11 meals, plus visits to Dealy Plaza, Southfort Ranch, a rodeo, river cruise in San Antonio, a tour of the Space Center in Houston and MUCH more. For details and reservations please call or text Kathy Marshall at 201-615-7824 or email at teacherkmm@yahoo.com.

THIS WEEK AT OLGC

SUNDAY: 9:30-10:45 am Pre-K-8 Rel. Ed. Classes
 11:00 am Mass with 3rd Grade participation
 12:30 pm Baptism Prep. Session

MONDAY:

TUESDAY: 4:15-5:30 pm 1-6 Rel. Ed. Classes
 7:15-8:30 pm 7-8 Rel. Ed. Classes

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 pm Youth Group

THURSDAY:

FRIDAY: 8:00 pm AA Meeting

SATURDAY: 9:15 am "Chosen" Video

SUNDAY: 12:30 pm Baptism

REMINDER

SUNDAY COMMITTEE - Next Sunday, January 14th, Group A under the direction of Patricia Holland is scheduled for duty at the rectory.

ARCHDIOCESAN CRISIS PREGNANCY HELPLINE - 1-888-4 OPTIONS.

WEBSITE - Our website is www.olgcwt.org. You can find our bulletin on it, schedules and Religious Education news, parish activities and Parish Giving. Check us out.

THE SUNDAY MASS - WCTV broadcasts the Sunday Mass from OLGC on Optimum channel 77 or Fios channel 24 every Sunday at 8:00 am and 12:00 noon. Every Sunday the televised Mass produced by the Passionist Community is available in the New York Metropolitan area. (WLNY at 9:00 am; WNYW at 5:30 am.) Mass is also available on EWTN at 8:00 am and noon. Check your newspaper or television listing for the channel number. Closed Captioning is also available.

MISA EN ESPANOL, DOMINGO 2:00 pm - St. Andrew's Church, Washington Avenue in Westwood, 201-669-3900. Please note new time and phone number.

MASS TIMES - Free Ministry to traveling Catholics for Nationwide Mass times and locations on the internet at: www.Masstimes.org or by phone at 858-207-6277 and then entering the zip code for where you are going.

CATHOLIC RADIO - "Relevant Radio" is a Catholic program with music and interesting information located at 1430 AM. In addition to the general audience, this might be appealing to the home-bound and/or visually impaired.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

of January 7, 2024

SATURDAY: 5:00 pm Marietta Gohery - 33rd Anniversary
 Nancy De Monaco - 17th Anniversary

SUNDAY: 8:00 am Louise Campbell
 11:00 am Nick and Nicholas Boggio

MONDAY: 8:45 am Pericles Pantginis

TUESDAY: 8:45 am Maria Hronic

WEDNESDAY: 8:45 am James Ryan

THURSDAY: 8:45 am Anita Arriado Grafilo

FRIDAY: 8:45 am Thomas Martin , Sr.

SATURDAY: 8:45 am People of the Parish
 5:00 pm James Ryan II and Edward Ryan

SUNDAY: 8:00 am Pat Stella
 11:00 am William O'Grady - 36th Anniversary

SCRIPTURE READING

SUNDAY: Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a,5-6; Mt 2:1-12

MONDAY: Is 55:1-11 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11

TUESDAY: 1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28

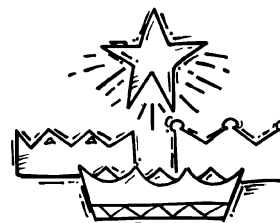
WEDNESDAY: 1 Sm 3:1-10,19-20; Mk 1:29-39

THURSDAY: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45

FRIDAY: 1 Sm 8:4-7,10-22a; Mk 2:1-12

SATURDAY: 1 Sm 9:1-4,17-19; 10:1a; Mk 2:13-17

SUNDAY: 1 Sm 3:3b-10,19; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a,17-20; Jn 1:35-42



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