

*O*UR LADY of GOOD COUNSEL

Roman Catholic Church

668 Ridgewood Road • Washington Township, New Jersey 07676

Serving the people of Washington Township, New Jersey



Rev. Raymond Rodrigue - Pastor
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

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

Daily Masses: 8:45 am



Confessions: By Appointment - Call 201-664-6624

Rectory Phone: 201-664-6624 • Rectory Fax: 201-664-0095

Parish E-mail: olgwt@aol.com

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

On this, the last Sunday of the calendar year, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. Today's feast reminds us that Jesus chose to live and grow, as part of an ordinary human family, rather than miraculously appear out of the blue, as an extraordinary, but unknown, adult.

There is more significance to that choice than we might think.

A few years ago, a study was undertaken to find the U.S. city with the lowest incidence of cancer and heart disease. The winner was the tiny, insignificant town of Roseto, Pennsylvania.

Experts quickly descended upon the little city to find out the secret to their health. Not surprisingly, they were expecting to see a town populated by non-smokers, people who ate the correct food, took regular exercise, and kept close track of their cholesterol.

To their great surprise, however, the researchers discovered that none of the above was true. They found instead that the city's good health appeared to be directly connected to the close family bonds that prevailed within the close-knit Italian American community.

They concluded that there clearly is much to be said for a close and loving family relationship. They began referring to this life extending phenomenon as the "Roseto Effect."

Jesus knew this. When He said that He came that we might have Life and have it more abundantly, He was not talking in a merely spiritual or futuristic sense. He meant it quite literally. By His own example, He demonstrated that a full and abundant life, both begins and flourishes within the context of a loving family.

Today's celebration of the Holy Family reminds us that, although Christ's life began within His close-knit biological family, it was not limited to them. It would soon expand to include His Apostles, and Disciples, and all who do the Will of God the Father.

We are all potentially brothers and sisters to Christ, living within the loving context of the Holy Family. A full and abundant life can be ours if we are willing to expend the effort necessary to be part of the family.

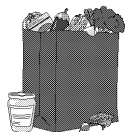
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

The Third Grade will participate at the 11:00 am Mass next Sunday, January 7th.

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

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 22- , December 23 - , December 24 - , December 25- , December 26 - , December 27 - , December 28 - . Tickets are available in the rectory for the remainder of the raffle which runs until January 31st

FLOCK -We love having you as a part of our Flock! Keep in touch with us via email and text! Text OLGAWT 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.

WOMEN'S GROUP will meet this Thursday at 1:00 pm in the Rackley Room.

2025 MASS BOOK will open on Tuesday, January 10th.

FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION AND ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will be held this Friday, January 5th, from 7:00-8:00 pm in the church. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

THANK YOU

Once again, our parish Caring Tree Collection was a huge success thanks to so many of you participating in so many different ways. To start with the newly established OLGW Women's Group under the guidance of Joanne Toole made all the tags for the gifts. Anthony Baldini, Bill Carroll, Pat Marcinek and Stan Umowski helped collect the gifts and bring them down to the Rackley Room as they flowed into the church and rectory. George Toole donated his truck, gas and time to bring the gifts to the Sisters of Life with the help of Deacon Bob Glasner. And of course, the generous parishioners who donated

over 300 gifts to fill the truck. Even with the different method of collecting the gifts this year you still managed to make it a huge success. Thank you as always for your generosity in all aspects of this charitable display. A special thanks to Chris DeMuro for two large donations of children's outdoor wear and clothing from his place of employment. God Bless you all. Sincerely, Claudia Carroll, Custodian of Caring Tree

PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE WEEK OF DEC, 31ST

We celebrate the "New Year." Let us pray that this New Year will bring renewed efforts at peace in the world. May all of us make a New Year's Resolution to grow in our relationship with Jesus, deepen our faith, and commit ourselves to serving Him with the gifts of time, talent and treasure.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Mary Vion mother of Mary Lou Swayne, Susan De Jacomo, Charlene Alessi and Donna Mulligan

STEWARDSHIP

Sunday Collection 12/16 & 17, 2023	\$4,099.00
Last Year	\$2,586.00
Increase	\$1,513.00
Parish Needs collection amounted to	\$6,280.00.

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.

VOCATION DISCERNMENT RETREAT - The Benedictine Sisters of St. Elizabeth at St. Walburga Monastery will hold a Vocation Discernment Retreat from January 5 to 7 for single women ages 18 to 55. For more information, please contact St. Rosemary Kenny, Vocation Director at 908-352-4278 x 206 or by email at Rosemaryosb@bensisnj.org.

THIS WEEK AT OLGC

SUNDAY:		New Year's Eve
MONDAY:		New Year's Day
TUESDAY:		
WEDNESDAY:		
THURSDAY:	1:00 pm	Women's Group
FRIDAY:	7:00-8:00 pm	First Friday Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	8:00 pm	AA Meeting
SATURDAY:		
SUNDAY:	9:30-10:45 am	Pre-K-8 Rel. Ed. Classes
	11:00 am	Mass with 3 rd Grade Participation
	12:30	Baptismal Prep. Session

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.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

of December 31, 2023

SATURDAY:	5:00 pm	Hackett Family
SUNDAY:	8:00 am	Marie Bozzone
	11:00 am	Mary Lou Catalano
MONDAY:	8:45 am	Richard Corra - 46 th Anniversary
TUESDAY:	8:45 am	Robert Feldner
WEDNESDAY:	8:45 am	Ester Corra - 7 th Anniversary
THURSDAY:	8:45 am	John's Father
FRIDAY:	8:45 am	Michael A. Cerniglia
SATURDAY:	8:45 am	People of the Parish
	5:00 pm	Marietta Gohery - 33 rd Anniversary Nancy De Monaco- 17 th Anniversary
SUNDAY:	8:00 am	Louise Campbell
	11:00 am	Nick & Nicholas Boggio

SCRIPTURE READING

SUNDAY:	Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Heb 11:8,11-12,17-19; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22,39-40
MONDAY:	Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
TUESDAY:	1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28
WEDNESDAY:	1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34
THURSDAY:	1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42
FRIDAY:	1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51
SATURDAY:	1 Jn 5:5-13; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:33-38
SUNDAY:	Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a,5-6; Mt 2:1-12



THE SPIRITUALITY CENTER at St. Walburga Monastery will also present two retreats for lay Catholics in January. **“Wintering With God”** a morning retreat - will be held on Thursday, January 4, 2024 from 9:15 am to 12:30 pm and **“Thomas Merton-Contemplative Activist”** take place January 26 to 28. To learn more visit: <https://bensisny.org>.

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.