



*Our Lady of Sorrows Church*  
December 4, 2016

From the Pastor's Desk

My Dear People:

The very heart of Advent is to increase our appreciation of our Savior. If we don't prepare for the celebration of His birthday, it will come and go, and with commercialism, we just may not have much of an appreciation of the most important aspect of our lives: that God loves us so much as to send us His Son, who more than visited His people. With the infinite love of God, who became one with us, joining Himself to our human nature and offering Himself in sacrifice for our sins, this cannot take second place in our lives.

The over 600 brown grocery bags brought to OLS for the Catholic Center of Concern reminds us, and others, that helping those in need during this holy season, along with extra prayers, is our target for a wonderful Christmas.

**STOP HUNGER NOW:** The Immaculate Heart of Mary Guild invites us to not only keep bringing bags of groceries, but to participate in the STOP HUNGER NOW PROGRAM this Sunday, December 4, the Second Sunday of Advent. This event will be going on all afternoon in the Assembly Hall, and will be a great effort to help hungry people. We package nutritional food, throwing in four different ingredients from four people gathered around some 20 tables, and with incredible speed put all four into the bag with a hopper. The four ingredients are:

1) rice, 2) dehydrated veggies, 3) vitamins and minerals, and 4) soy. It is sealed and boxed and sent to some places like Haiti. The actual cost for OLS is 29¢ a meal and our work time, two hours, for the volunteers.

OLS has committed to three different shifts: 1 to 3 p.m., 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. for the Middle School Youth Group for as long as it takes. We need 100 people for each shift. We have enough volunteers for the first

shift; future volunteers, please aim for the second or third shifts. If you are free, it could be a very meaningful Advent project. Come and help, and/or watch and encourage. Total meals to be prepared is 75,000!

**Dementia Caregivers Support:** We don't know the exact cause, but there is a brain disease spreading in our country; five million have dementia, and they say in the next 10 years it will be 40% more.

Suddenly, loved ones find their lives very changed as they become CAREGIVERS for the spouse or parent, a role which can be very taxing, time consuming and patient demanding. Support groups are being formed in different churches, and Lanell Carroll, devout OLS parishioner, who has helped at Canterbury Methodist Church, has started a support group at OLS. Right off, I know four of our parishioners who suddenly developed dementia. There must be at least five more in our parish, or soon will be. Caregivers need help, support, and encouragement, and the reminder that the Lord is with them in this journey of faith and an invitation to make that extra sacrifice for the Lord, Who has done so much for us. One does not have to have a spouse with dementia to come to the meetings (Mondays from 1-2:30 p.m. in the Parish Library). For more information, contact Lanell Carroll at 427-6391.

**Chapel of Our Savior:** A paradox is something that seems to be one way and turns out to be the opposite. People make the sacrifice of a committed hour and think it is hard, then it becomes a spiritual joy and they love it, especially in the middle of the night. The people who have a committed hour make it possible for OLS to have around the clock adoration, and it blesses the parish incredibly, starting with the priests and all others. We get infinitely more than we give. I thank people when I finish my visits in the Chapel, and they all say they are the winner with this nocturnal appointment with the Lord. One man told me how he loves it at 2 a.m., just Jesus and himself...less distractions.



**The Advent Penance Service will be held on Thursday, December 15, at 7 p.m. in the Church. We will have several priests hearing confessions. Please join us.**

**What's Goin on  
In High School Youth Group?**

**Dec. 4:** Faith Formation at 10 a.m.: Studying the *Decision Point* series by Catholic author Matthew Kelly. This week our focus is "The Jesus Question" on page 60-65 in your book.

Dinner & a Life Night at 7 p.m. Our final night focusing on the "Year of Mercy". Next week we will focus on the meaning of Advent and have a tacky sweater party!

**Wednesdays at 7 p.m.:** Catholic Book Study, dinner and games each week! All are welcome.

Learn how you can get involved at [www.olsyouth.com](http://www.olsyouth.com).

**Here's the Scoop  
on MID Youth Group!**

**Dec. 4:** We are hosting a Stop Hunger Now event in the Assembly Hall. Edge will meet in the Parish Hall for dinner at 7 p.m. and then move to the FLC at 7:30 to package dinners. We need lots of volunteers to meet our goal. Please sign up for the third session at <http://events.stophungernow.org/OLS2016>

**Dec. 6:** We will join the Elementary and High School Youth Groups to march in the Homewood Christmas Parade. Meet in the FLC at 4:45 p.m. for pizza before we walk to the library to line up. The parade starts at 6 p.m. Please wear red or white. If you would like to dress as a shepherd, email [carol@olsyouth.com](mailto:carol@olsyouth.com) to reserve a costume. Let's have a great turnout to represent Edge Youth Group!

**The Elementary Children's Ministry** invites all 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> graders to march in the Homewood Christmas Parade on December 6. We will meet in the Parish Hall at 4:45 p.m. for dinner, then walk to the Homewood Library for the parade at 6 p.m. The parade ends at Homewood City Hall (SOHO). Our group theme is *Behold, the Lamb of God*, so participating children will dress like lambs – basics are all white clothing, but you can embellish as much as you like. Lambs' ears headbands will be provided. Parents, we will need you to march with our group as well, and younger/older siblings are also invited to march with us. If you would like to throw candy as you march, you must provide your own supply. Please RSVP at [ecm@ourladyofsorrows.com](mailto:ecm@ourladyofsorrows.com) for the dinner and the number of children who will be wearing headbands (include siblings).

**The OLS Music Ministry** invites everyone to an afternoon of Advent Music on Sunday, December 18, at 2 p.m. in the Church. All Choirs will be performing, as well as several other soloists and instrumentalists. Please come and get in the Advent spirit with us! All are welcome!

**St. Ann's Guild** will hold its monthly meeting and Christmas Luncheon on Wednesday, December 7, at 10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. RSVP with Paula Gasser at 807-6072.

**Our Lady of Peace** will meet in the Sodality Room on Monday, December 5, for our annual Christmas Party. Refreshments will be served starting at 11:30 a.m. and will be followed by a catered lunch that will be served at 12 noon.



**Please join the Altar Sodality for a Rosary on Wednesday, December 7, at 9:45 a.m. in the Church. All are welcome.**

### **The Young Professionals Bible Study**

welcomes men and women in their 20's and 30's who are interested in faith formation and fellowship. All men and women from the diocese are invited to join for study, volunteer opportunities, and outings. We meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Library of the Family Life Center. We are currently studying "Hail, Holy Queen" by Scott Hahn. If interested, please contact Stephanie Zicarelli at [stephaniezicarelli@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniezicarelli@gmail.com) or check us out on Facebook (OLS Young Professionals).

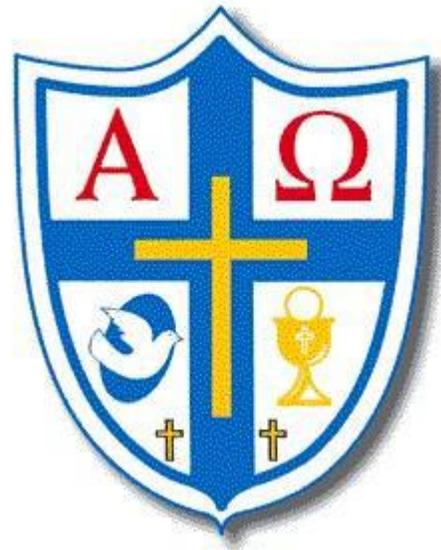
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### **The Annual Respect Life Mass and March,**

led by Bishop Baker, will be on Saturday, January 14, 2017. The Pray and Unite for Life Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Paul at 9 a.m., followed by the March for Life at 10:45 a.m. at Brother Bryan Park. For more information go to [www.BirminghamMarchforLife.com](http://www.BirminghamMarchforLife.com) or call 205-447-8796.

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**WELCOME HOME...We are delighted to announce the Annual Simbang Gabi Novena,** December 15-23, at 7 p.m. (except on Saturday at 10 a.m.) at the Cathedral of St. Paul. The Simbang Gabi ( Misa de Gallo) is a treasured Filipino tradition dating back 440 years ago when Miguel Lopez de Legaspi celebrated the first Feast of the Nativity in 1565 in the Philippine archipelago. It comes from the Catholic belief of gathering for the celebration of the Eucharist in the pre-dawn hours of the nine days before Christmas in preparation for the Birth of Jesus. Over the generations, local Filipino faith communities have creatively adapted Simbang Gabi. We are blessed to hold the Simbang Gabi at the Cathedral of St. Paul. Mass will be celebrated by our beloved priests from different parishes and culminates with the Most Reverend Bishop Baker officiating on December 23. For more information, contact Gabriel Sapalaran at [gsapalaran88@gmail.com](mailto:gsapalaran88@gmail.com) or call 612-5938.



## **OUR LADY OF SORROWS SCHOOL**

### **“SHADOW DAYS”**

**Don't miss the opportunity to experience  
Catholic education first hand.**

**OLS School is offering  
“Shadow Days” for students  
in first through seventh grades  
on Thursdays.**

**A shadow day is when your child “shadows” a  
current OLS student in the same grade, and  
experiences a day in the life of a Catholic  
school student.**

**Call this Week to Arrange  
a Shadow Day for Your Child at  
(205) - 879-3237  
...and find out how  
You can Empower Your Child's  
Future with an  
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and faith...Experience the Difference!*  
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