



## *Our Lady of Sorrows Church*

December 6, 2020

*From the Pastor's Desk*

My Dear People:

Advent: The most important aspect of our lives is our belief in a life after death. It is this life after death that ultimately shows us how much God loves us and makes sense of the suffering on this earth. In making us in His own image and likeness, He gave us "eternity," since He Himself has "eternity." Life on this earth is nothing less than a preparation for the next life, where God will shower His faithful with a happiness that cannot be humanly described.

The mysterious way of God is to hide that "life" from us while we are on this earth. We get small glimpses with apparitions of the saints, such as Our Lady appearing at Lourdes, the hot-bed of miracles, to verify the reality of that other life.

The existence of that "other life" was most manifested by Jesus, who died and who lives after death and was seen by over 500 of His followers, most notably the great persecutor of the Church, Saul of Tarsus, later named St. Paul. The reality of Paul's experiences caused him to turn 180 degrees and become the very kind of person that he persecuted. He suffered being stoned, beaten, imprisoned and, eventually, beheaded, because in the reality of that other life he would be with Jesus.

Most of us do not deny that "other life," but we simply do not act like we believe it 100 percent. During the season of Advent, we are reminded of the reality of that "other life."

We study Salvation History, which centers around the birth, life, and resurrection of Jesus. Advent is a time when we celebrate the fact that He has, indeed, been born.

The continuation of our life after death is based on the coming of our Savior. What is more important to us than that? Our Savior has said:

"I go to prepare a place for you, and I will come again to take you to Myself so that where I am, you, also, will be." (John 14:2-4)

"Everyone who believes in the Son has eternal life." (John 14:2-3)

We need a birthday gift for the Lord. It will depend on our own choice of the gift to Him. What amazes me is that on the Lord's birthday, He, Himself, gives people so many gifts: the grace to pray more, to be more faithful to the Holy Sacrifice, though with the pandemic, in so many cases, it is more through streaming the "Mass" into our homes during Advent that we pray this great prayer more.

The Nativity Scenes are the great reminders of the circumstances and of the reality of the birth of the Savior. I love the scene in front of the church. Many thanks to Joe Alesce, Greg Wos, John Tombrello, Paul DiGiorgio, Mary Rupinski, Jeannie Wade and Mike Millican for all the help in the construction and arranging of the stable, images, and lights. The Deering family constructed the same size scene on the highway in front of my farm in Chelsea, and I love it! Shouldn't there be a nativity scene in every home? We even have a scene in the Church Office.

The old Gorrie-Regan building property is now moving ahead. We begged for prayers for the vote on November 30, and our people have responded. The vote this past Monday night was 8 to 1 in favor of the approval of the Homewood City Council that we may build a parking area there for more parking places closer to the church building.

I was present at the meeting, and I must commend Charles Ferlisi, who was in charge of the whole operation, though he had professionals standing with him (attorney,

landscape architect, etc.). I also must commend two who came forth from those attending to verbalize on OLS's behalf: Rich Campbell and Tim Lucy spoke strongly on our behalf during this hour-long discussion. Some wheels turn slowly, and land development is one of them. THANK YOU, LORD, FOR THE PEOPLE WHO PRAYED FOR THIS AND FOR YOUR WONDERFUL ANSWER TO OUR PRAYERS.

With prayers and blessings,  
Father Muller

**Bishop Raica has extended the dispensation** from the obligation to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation through Sunday, January 10. We will continue to livestream Masses. The moral obligation of keeping the Lord's Day holy remains, even for those who use the dispensation and do not attend Mass.

**The Feast of the Immaculate Conception** is Tuesday, December 8. This is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Mass Schedule is:

**Monday, December 7: 6 p.m. Vigil**  
**Tuesday, December 8: 6:30 & 7:30 a.m.**  
**12 Noon**  
**6 p.m.**

Carmela Yeakle, Ronnie Williams, Tony Schilleci, Amanda Gagliano, Carolyn Jefferson, Bob Doyle, Donald Taccone, Ellen Scalise, Tim Carlisle, Tom James, Mike Skellie, Harriet Dupree, Alan Pizzitola, Kenny Skellie



Monday, Dec. 7	Donald David Joy Raine Sp. Int. Joseph Grelier
Tuesday, Dec. 8	Paul Joseph Nola Louise Robinson Charles Woods Special Intention
Wednesday, Dec. 9	Mary Claire Brouillette Jude Tombrello Special Intention
Thursday, Dec. 10	Joy Raine Sp. Int. Claudia Tombrello
Friday, Dec. 11	Don Cecil Smith Lena Carruba Sp. Int. Joseph Grelier
Saturday, Dec. 12	Donors to OLS School Foundation Jude Tombrello Sp. Int. Claudia Tombrello
Sunday, Dec. 13	People of Parish Jude Tombrello Josephine Sicola

**John Carroll Catholic High School** is currently scheduling tours and student Shadow Days for the month of December. All 8<sup>th</sup> Graders and prospective transfer students are invited to Experience the Value of a John Carroll Education! Contact Tina Wos, Admissions Director, to schedule your tour or Shadow Day. Email [twos@jcchs.org](mailto:twos@jcchs.org) or call 940-2400. Come see us in December!



### **PRAY FOR VOCATIONS**

How are you preparing the way for the Lord? What needs straightening in your life? Call on God in prayer to help you. (Matthew 3:1-12) For our Church, may we encourage those among us who may have a call to priesthood or the consecrated life.

## ***What's Going on in Youth Ministry?***

**Saturday, January 16:** Mark the calendar for Catholic Youth on Mission at the Birmingham March for Life! We will have a youth rally featuring Laura Barksdale! More info. To come.

Please consider donating a new, unwrapped toy to our Toy Drive. Proceeds benefit St. Barnabas Parish. Donations may be dropped off through December 6.

If you are in quarantine for school at this time, we ask that you do not attend Youth Group during that time, as well. Thank you!

For complete calendars, check out [www.olsyouth.com](http://www.olsyouth.com).

## ***Life Teen High School***

**Sunday, Dec. 6:** Faith Formation at 10 a.m. discussing the Gospel readings and putting our faith into action with Food for Our Journey service. We will continue our service that evening starting at 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, Dec. 9:** Co-ed Bible study from 7-8:30 p.m. in the youth room. Pizza, prayer and discussion!

## ***Edge Middle School***

**Sunday, Dec. 6:** We will meet IN FRONT of the Family Life Center for "Hall of Fame," an Edge night on where Jesus is buried. Dinner starts at 7 p.m. and pick-up is at 8:30. Masks and social distancing are required! **Please tune in virtually on Instagram @olsedge if you are in quarantine for school!**

## **Food for Our Journey update:**

We are serving almost 700 meals a day, seven days a week. The OLS food drive every Wednesday is vital to our ability to serve the homeless and food insecure in our community. We are handing out close to 700 bottles of water a day, so **we really need water**. Also, we are getting constant requests for socks and masks. If you have clean, gently used, or new socks, we need them. If anyone has access to masks of any kind, we would love to have them. We thank all of you who have donated so far and look forward to seeing all of you who can donate every Wednesday (drop offs accepted from 9 -10:30 a.m.) in the parish parking lot."  
Christine Golab, Assistant Executive Director

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**Advent candles are available for purchase. If interested, please call the school at 205-879-3237.**

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**GOOD NEWS!** Dr. John Cuddeback of Christendom College just announced he is offering his Man of the Household course for free. Men, make your own plan for growing as Man of the Household. Sign up for Dr. John Cuddeback's 4-part online course, complete with live office hours for discussion. It's Catholic, philosophically based, and provides brotherly support for spiritual growth. Go to [www.life-craft.org](http://www.life-craft.org).