



Our Lady of Sorrows Church

December 13, 2020

From the Pastor's Desk

My Dear People:

Rejoice Sunday: There is a celebrated passage in the book of Ecclesiastes stating that all things have their seasons:

A time to be born and a time to die.
A time to destroy and a time to build.
A time to mourn and a time to dance, etc.

In the Christian era, we add:

A time to rejoice and a time to keep
rejoicing in the birth of the Savior.

There may be deaths to mourn, sicknesses to suffer, and economies to recover, but there will always be the time to rejoice that we have a Savior.

1st Reading:

"I rejoice heartily in the Lord."

Responsorial Psalm response:

"My soul rejoices in my God."

2nd Reading, 1st Thessalonians:

"Rejoice always."

In the Gospel today, they were thinking that John the Baptist was so great. He might have said: Rejoice, there is one coming after me so much greater than I that I am not worthy to loose his sandal straps.

The birth of Jesus is so great, we just can't celebrate this on one day, which comes and goes so fast. So, we start rejoicing on the third Sunday of Advent. "New Year's" is the Octave of Christmas; it is really eight days after the feast, and it celebrates the birth of Jesus, His taking on human flesh. It used to be called the Feast of the Circumcision and is now called the Motherhood of Mary (Jesus taking on human flesh). The theme of rejoice is explicitly celebrated until the baptism of

Jesus in the river Jordan. It is then that we take down the nativity scenes. Yes, every nativity scene should be saying and singing "Joy to the world, the Lord has come."

Today is Tithing Sunday. Thank you, on behalf of our benevolent God, to those who have been so generous this past year in supporting the parish. It allows us to serve so many people and guide them in the direction of God.

The procession to the altar is so impressive (please, 6-foot distances as we process after the Homily to place our pledge cards into a basket, which is placed at the altar of God). The pledge card is a way of admitting that everything we have comes from Him, and so He gets the first part of what we earn. It means that we trust in His continued blessings; it means that we love Him with the proof that we are willing to sacrifice for Him.

Let there be nativity scenes all over the world in order to keep Christ in Christmas. Keep viewing these scenes of the birth of the Savior and keep saying: THANK YOU, JESUS, A MILLION TIMES!

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.



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



Mass Intentions

Monday, Dec. 14	Melanie Gilchrist Joy Raine
Tuesday, Dec. 15	Mary Claire Brouillette Alan Bruno Jude Tombrello Louise Robinson
Wednesday, Dec. 16	Lee Maniscalco Mary Claire Brouillette Joy Raine
Thursday, Dec. 17	Special Intention Sp. Int. Danielle Rose Joy Raine
Friday, Dec. 18	Ginny Jacka Durst Sp. Int. Jonathan Roumie Joy Raine
Saturday, Dec. 19	Donors to OLS School Foundation Lena Lucia John Milan
Sunday, Dec. 20	People of Parish Jude Tombrello Mike Zarichnak

Food for Our Journey update:

Once again, we would like to thank OLS for their continued support of our food drive. We are grateful to Fr. Muller for allowing us to continue our food drive every week. I cannot stress enough how vital your donations are to help us to serve our homeless community. We are in need of a few specific things over the coming months. With the weather getting colder and wetter, we need ponchos, gloves, warm hats, and scarves. We also need sweet and salty snacks to go in the lunch bags. We continue to welcome your donations of sandwiches, soft fruits, and water. Thank you, Christine Golab, Assistant Executive Director

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.

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.

Life Teen High School

Sunday, December 13: 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.! Last week our group packed over 100 lunches for the homeless of Birmingham. This is our final meeting of 2020.

Edge Middle School

Sunday, December 13: Meet us in front of the Family Life Center for "Encore", an Edge Night on where Jesus is now. We will also be doing a service project, packaging meals for Food for Our Journey. Dinner starts at 7 p.m. Dress warmly!



PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Lasting joy is a hallmark of a Christian. Where can you bring joy this week? Find your strength in God's promise. (Isaiah 35:16, 10) For those who minister with the ill, the blind, the infirmed, and all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.

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

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24

4 p.m. (3 Masses- Church,
Parish Hall, Family Life Center –
Nursery provided)

6 p.m.

9 p.m.

Midnight

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25

10:00 and 11:30 a.m.

6:00 p.m.

New Year's Eve

Thursday, December 31

6:00 p.m.

New Year's Day

Friday, January 1

7:00, 10:00, 11:30 a.m.

6:00 p.m.