

The Parish Family Of OUR LADY OF SORROWS



14 Prospect St., Essex, CT 06426
860-767-1284 • (fax) 860-767-7874 • www.olos-sx.org

Fr. Arul Rajan Peter, Pastor
pastor@olos-sx.org
Deacon William C. Kaiser, Jr.
deacon@olos-sx.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Evening Vigil: 5:30 P.M.
Sunday: 8:30 A.M. and 12:00 P.M.
Weekdays: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30 A.M.
Holy Day Vigil: 7:00 P.M.
Holy Days: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30 A.M.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Sunday: 11:15 A.M.-11:45 A.M.
Also by appointment. Please contact the parish office.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Sunday: 1:00 P.M. Please contact the parish office to make an appointment.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY: Please contact the parish office to make arrangements.

SICK CALLS: Please notify the Pastor when a parishioner is in the hospital or confined at home and wishes to receive the sacraments.

ALTAR SERVERS: Jane Bodnar 860-767-2060 and Cathy Jenkins 860-767-8497.

ADORATION / HOLY HOUR: Saturday: 4:00-5:15 P.M. and Wednesday: 9:00 A.M.- 4:00 P.M.

NOVENA: Miraculous Medal Wednesday: 9:00 A.M.

PRAYER CENACLE: Friday: 9:00 A.M.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: Michael Berdenseny, Grand Knight 860-304-6839.

PARISH OFFICE: Monday- Friday: 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Secretary: Caitlin Riley, office@olos-sx.org
Bookkeeper: Joanne Civitillo

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Joyce Leach 860-767-2705
dre@olos-sx.org

PARISH COUNCIL: President, Walter Wiegert 860-767-3209
parishcouncil@olos-sx.org Council meets the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 P.M. in Murtha Hall.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST: Irene Listorti 860-388-9884

CHOIR PRACTICE: Adults Thursday: 7:30 P.M.

BULLETIN: Please call or e-mail information to bulletin@olos-sx.org
Copy deadline is Monday: 12:00 P.M.

ALTAR SOCIETY: Irene Heller

OLOS WOMEN'S GUILD: Co-Presidents Jackie Beck 860-304-3643 and Angela Johnson 860-395-5603.
The Guild meets the third Tuesday of the month.

PRAYER BLANKET MINISTRY: Irene Heller 860-767-8662

LITURGY COMMITTEE: Irene Listorti 860-388-9884
Meets the first Tuesday of each month.

Welcome new parishioners. We want to know and serve you. Please introduce yourselves after Mass. We hope you become an active part of our Parish family.

MISSION STATEMENT

"As parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows Church, we commit to provide a community for all, based on the faith of our Catholic values, traditions, and beliefs, that fosters a spirit of love, education, and a sense of family."

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Mass Intentions

Saturday December 21st

8:30 St. Joseph's
4:00 St. Joseph's
5:30 Father Paul 1st anniversary by The Knights of Columbus

Sunday December 22nd

8:30 Father Paul by Jenkins family
10:00 St. Joseph's
12:00 Donald Agostini by MaryAnn Agostini

Monday December 23rd

8:30 William Whaley by Janet Whaley

Tuesday December 24th

4:00 St. Joseph's
5:30 Todd Walier by Joe and Judith Walier
10:00 St. Joseph's (in place of midnight Mass)

Wednesday December 25th The Nativity of the Lord

8:30 James Santarsiere anniversary by the family
10:00 St. Joseph's
11:00 John Flanagan 5th anniversary by Chris and Caitlin Riley

Thursday December 26th

8:30 St. Joseph's

Friday December 27th

8:30 Herman and Loretta LaDone by the family

Saturday December 28th

8:30 St. Joseph's
4:00 St. Joseph's
5:30 Living and deceased members of the Fauxbel, Gaumond and Tremblay families by Marie Tremblay

Sunday December 29th

8:30 Father Paul 1st anniversary by Parish family
10:00 St. Joseph's
12:00 Maureen Jendrucek by Burzin Family



Candles for December

The Sanctuary Candle will burn in memory of **James Santarsiere** by the family, **James Donahoe** by his wife and the **Beaudette, Lanoue** families. The Tabernacle Candle will burn in memory of the living and deceased members of the **Durigan, Walsh and Conboy families** by Anita Durigan.

From Fr. Peter

*Christmas means Christ + mass.
We celebrate the mass of Christ
on Christmas day.*

*God wished people to regain paradise.
God wanted people to taste His love.
So, He sent His Son as a human child
so that humans could see, hear, touch
and experience God's love.*

*As we celebrate Christmas we celebrate
the birth of Jesus; the birth of love;
the birth of joy, peace and salvation.*

*On your child's birth day you wish
your child, "Happy Birthday" - not
"Happy Holiday".*

*On Christ's birthday wish,
"Happy Christmas"
- not "Happy Holiday"*

Merry Christmas to all of you.

Circle of Prayer

*For the hearts of our parishioners to be filled
with Christmas peace .*

Weekly Offertory

Dec. 14-15	\$2,870.00
Monthly	\$1,118.00
Online Giving	\$185.00

Thank you for your generosity.

Mass Intentions

The parish office is now taking intentions for the 2014 calendar year. If you have a specific date you would like for a mass intention please contact the parish office at 860-767-1284.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Upcoming Events

- December 29th, after the 8:30 a.m. Mass
Fr. Paul's Memorial Dedication
- January 1st, Solemnity of Octave of Christmas **Holy Day of Obligation** 8:30 a.m. Mass at OLOS and 10:00 a.m. Mass at **St. Joseph's**
- January 3rd, 12:00 p.m. **Third Order of Mary Meeting**. Enthronement of the Sacred Heart
- January 5th, CCD Mass at 8:30 a.m.
- January 8th, 6:30 p.m. Parish Council meeting in Murtha Hall
- January 14th, 6:30 p.m. Bible Study with Fr. Peter at **St. Joseph's**



Christmas Mass Schedule

Tuesday December 24th, 2013

4:00 p.m. St. Joseph's
5:30 p.m. Our Lady of Sorrows
10:00 p.m. St. Joseph's
(10:00 p.m. in place of midnight Mass)

Wednesday December 25th, 2013

8:30 a.m. Our Lady of Sorrows
10:00 a.m. St. Joseph's
11:00 a.m. Our Lady of Sorrows

Christmas Flower Memorials

We are now taking donations for Christmas flowers. These may be in remembrance of your deceased loved ones, a living loved one or simply a donation to help defray the cost of altar decorations. Please use the envelopes in the back of the church and when completed, place in the weekly collection basket.

Fr. Paul's Memorial Dedication

Our Lady of Sorrows would like to invite all parishioners to the dedication of a memorial for Fr. Paul outside the church on **Sunday December 29th, 2013 immediately following the 8:30 a.m. Mass**. There will be the dedication and a coffee reception in Murtha Hall. Please join us to celebrate our appreciation for Fr. Paul's years of dedication to Our Lady of Sorrows.

12 Days of Christmas Raffle

It's that time of year again the **Women's Guild** has made up some lovely baskets to raffle off to all of you lucky parishioners. The baskets will be on display this weekend. The drawing will be held **on Sunday December 22nd after the 12:00 Mass**.

Knights of Columbus Bus Trip to NYC

As many of you are aware, our Dec. 14th bus trip to NYC was delayed by the most recent snowstorm. We plan to try again, this time on **Jan 4th**. Departure location remains the same, St Joseph's Parish Center Parking Lot. Departure time for NYC is still 8a.m. Departure time from NYC remains 5p.m that afternoon. The Christmas Tree at Rockefeller Center will still be lighted and there should be quite a few post-Christmas sales to take advantage of.

The two buses will make 3 stops, in order, Metropolitan Museum, Rockefeller Plaza/Saint Patrick's Cathedral and Battery Park. You will have total flexibility on what you wish to see. The cost of the trip per person remains \$35.00, for adults and children. Those who already paid the first time are automatically credited with the number of seats they initially paid for.

We need final confirmations no later than **Dec 28th**. If you haven't already paid, please make checks payable to Knights of Columbus Council 12113 and mail them to Mike Berdensen, 81 Middlesex Ave Chester CT 06412 and ensure your checks arrive by Dec 28th. On your check, please include your phone number and the number of people going to New York.

If you would like more information, please contact Mike Berdensen, the OLOS Grand Knight at 860-304-6839 or united06475@gmail.com or Bill Burdick, the Saint Joseph's Council Grand Knight 860-322-4151 or bburdick46@gmail.com.

DECEMBER 22ND, 2013

The Gift of Generosity

This Christmas season, we thank everyone who has supported Our Lady of Sorrows this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our parishioners in the year ahead. If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings or if you plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to look into our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up, especially around Christmas, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. Visit olos-sx.org or contact the parish office for more information.

Message from The Bishop

Christmas Message 2013

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, I pray that the joy and peace of our newborn Savior will fill your hearts and flourish in your families. This Christmas, may Christ find hearts ready to receive Him and families eager to welcome Him in their homes!

What does Christ's birth mean to us? To answer this question in a meaningful way, we must look at the Scriptures and experience what His birth meant to those who welcomed Him on that first Christmas.

As we recount the events of Jesus' birth, we hear the Angel announce the good news and tidings of great joy (CF Luke 2:10). Shepherds go in haste to welcome the newborn Savior and they return praising God for all that they had heard and seen (CF Luke 2:20). When the Infant Jesus was brought to the Temple by his parents to be presented to the Lord (CF Luke 2:23), they met Simeon, an upright and devout man who, prompted by the Spirit, was in the Temple. They also met Anna who never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer (CF Luke 2:37). When Simeon saw Jesus, he rejoiced that he had seen the salvation God had prepared for all people, a light for the pagans and the glory of Israel (CF Luke 2:30-32). Anna gave thanks to God for Jesus and spoke of the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem (CF Luke 2:38).

Wise-men came from the East to the Manger in Bethlehem. They rejoiced exceedingly and worshipped Christ, giving Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh (CF Matthew 2:10-11). At the same time, the birth of God's only begotten Son, threatened Herod who ordered the death of all male children two years old or under in Bethlehem and the surrounding area (Matthew 2:16).

In the events of that first Christmas, Christ's birth transforms the hearts and fills with the joy of God's love the souls of the shepherds, the wise-men, and of Simeon, and

Anna. For Jesus' followers, the Savior's birth is not only a feast that we celebrate each year, but it is also a renewal of an encounter with the Lord. Christmas is the Holy Spirit's invitation to make room for Jesus in our lives and to share Christ with others. It is God's call to embrace Christ, to cradle Him in our hearts, and to witness to Him in our words and deeds. Christmas celebrates the Christ who lives in each of us through Baptism and the Christ who nourishes us in the Eucharist. Christmas reveals God's love and mercy and the Christ who forgives our sins and raises us up to new life. Like the Angels on that first Christmas, we give glory to God and bring about peace among all people by joyfully living God's love and mercy.

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium)*, our Holy Father Pope Francis emphasizes the great danger in today's world when, caught up in self-interest, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. "God's voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades." The Holy Father invites us to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus. "No one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord. '.... whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms.'" In Christ's birth, God lavishes His love on us. The Lord empowers us to announce tidings of great joy by speaking words and doing deeds, laced with God's love, that show our respect and love and caring for others.

This Christmas, through prayer and meditation, draw near to Christ! Find Christ in others, especially in the needy. Experience the joy of God's love in your life. The Church throws open its doors in welcome to you; come, celebrate Christ's Presence in the Eucharist with praise and thanksgiving in your hearts. Invite others to join with you. "Take a step towards Jesus," into His open arms.

At Christmas and in our daily prayer, we pray for our sisters and brothers in the Philippines whose lives and homes were devastated by the typhoon. We pray, too, for all those in the military, especially those who are serving in harm's way, and for all who are separated from their families and loved ones. We remember in our prayers all who are struggling due to the economy, or illness. We remember in prayer those who are underemployed or unemployed as well as our sisters and brothers who are homeless and hungry. Help them to experience the embrace of God's love in Jesus' open arms.

Merry Christmas to all! May your New Year be filled with the choicest blessings of the newborn Savior and may you embrace each day as an opportunity to welcome Christ with joy in your hearts and home, and, as an opportunity to share Christ with others! May you have a blessed Christmas and a happy and holy new year!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Michael R. Cote
Bishop of Norwich

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