Our Lady of Mercy Church
Presents
“A Christmas Presence”

With the critically acclaimed

Hanover Wind Symphony

With special appearance by the combined choirs of
Our Lady of Mercy Church, Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Church,
First Presbyterian Church of Whippany and Hildale Park Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 11, 2016 3:00 P.M.
Our Lady of Mercy Church
90 Whippany Road
Whippany, N. J. 07981

Tickets: $15.00 Children under 12 Free

For tickets call 973-887-0050
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<th>Sunday</th>
<th>11/27/16</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>11/28/16</th>
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<tr>
<td>First Sunday of Advent</td>
<td>Calendar Raffle</td>
<td>CYO 6-9PM</td>
<td>Stay awake...</td>
<td>God is coming!</td>
<td>RF</td>
<td>FAITH FORMATION</td>
<td>7PM Adult Choir</td>
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**NOVEMBER 27, 2016**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**SATURDAY, November 26th - Vigil First Sunday of Advent**
5:30 P.M. George Minto Cindy White
Charles Heuser Ted Heiart
James Turleta
In Memory of Ted Sieka on his Birthday

**SUNDAY, November 27th - First Sunday of Advent**
7:30 A.M. Marie & Ralph LeFevere
Deceased Members of the Agazio Family
9:30 A.M. Julia Fisher Dan Aloia
Veronica & Walter Mugavin
11:00 A.M. Michael Brosnonski Richard Hayward
Ferdinand Beyer (20th Ann)

**MONDAY, November 28th**
9:00 A.M. Justin T.
Jeffery Snyder

**TUESDAY, November 29th**
9:00 A.M. Justin T.
Walter Giordano

**WEDNESDAY, November 30th**
9:00 A.M. Anna DiGiovinne

**THURSDAY, December 1st**
9:00 A.M. Mike D'Ambola, Sr. (1st Ann)

**FRIDAY, December 2nd**
9:00 A.M. Phyllis & Thomas Ryan

**SATURDAY, December 3rd - St. Francis Xavier**
9:00 A.M. Charles Reitz

**SUNDAY, December 4th - Second Sunday of Advent**
5:30 P.M. Daniel Aloia Joanna Foran
Loretta Jean Doonan

GOD’S GIFT FOR GIFTING

Due to the Holiday - the Collection for Nov 19-20th, Catholic Home Missions and Thanksgiving will be listed in next week’s bulletin.

CHRISTMAS PRESENCE CONCERT

Tickets are now available after all the masses for our annual “Christmas Presence Concert” with the Hanover Wind Symphony. The concert will be held on Dec 11th at 3PM in the Church. Tickets are also available at the Rectory M-F from 9AM - 3PM. Please join us for a spectacular concert and wonderful way to begin the Christmas Season this year. (Ads are also available for the concert program) If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Rectory at 973-887-0050.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who participated in our food collection for Our Lady of Victories & Our Lady of Lourdes in Paterson. They were amazed and grateful for your overwhelming response. If you were unable to get your donation, but would still like to donate, please see Lisa after any of the masses. There are always people who are in need of food, especially at this time of year. Bless you for your generosity.

IN MEMORY

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week in the Church in loving memory of Mike D’Ambola, Sr. at the request of his family.

SECOND COLLECTION

Support elderly religious. A parishioner wrote, “As a Catholic school student from grades K-12, I was formed to be the person I am by many religious brothers and sisters, and I am forever grateful”. Show your appreciation for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. We welcome Sr. Louise Lauretta who will share with us at all the liturgies next weekend. Please give generously to next weekend’s 2nd Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate 2 couples from our parish family who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary at the Diocesan Celebration on 11/6 - Maria & Bob Werner and Carolyn and William Comerford! Thank you for representing the Parish Family of OLM and we send our love and blessings to you!
Thursday 12/01/16

CYO 6-9PM
AIDS Awareness Day

Friday 12/02/16

CYO 6-9PM

Saturday 12/03/16

K of C Christmas Party
2nd Collection

Sunday 12/04/16

SecondSunday of Advent
RF 2nd Collection
Calendar Raffle

For everything there is a Reason and a Time for Every Purpose under Heaven

...A Time to Heal...
Pray for the sick
Giuseppa Casarrubea, Pat Fusco, Ann Y., Connor Davey,
Addie Cinquino, Connie Delio, Susan Nicoll, Carol, Bob Bark,
Angela Cassano, Allen Lebo, Dominic Guida, John Stolfi,
Giovanna Cinquino, John Jaczynski, Jacqueline Gorman,
Shane Hakes, Mike McLaughlin, Bill Van Hall, Fr. Charlie,
Pat Conforti, Agnes Ryan, Kip Dangler, Robert DellPurgatorio,
Michael, Charles Realmonte, Roger, Linda Ann Celeste,
Lucille Cocca, John Strumolo, Sr, Angela, Cara Coughlin,
Shirley Smieckins, Joyce Ann Michaelson, Stephen Donnelly,
Ronnie Noll, Emma Carothers, Bob Roberts, Joseph Mascia,
Colton Ford Petronaci, Mark Herkert, Gary Y, James Giannetti,
Kevin Mulligan, Russell Casselli, Jimmy Hark, Audrey Sherry,
Randy Olsen, Ariene Gentile, Marylou Perrini, Michelle White,
Patsy Manna, Chris Surrigo, Felisa Manlapig, Richard Vigil,
June Surrano, Paul Comerford, Lorraine Azzinaro, Pat Rue-an,
Angel Lamontagne, Melissa, Neal Spickert-Fulton, Generoso Giesullo,
Assunta Less, John, Ariene Esposito, Audrey Sahanan,
Anita & Armando Geroldi, Ariene Gentile, Angelina Martin,
Wagner Estivalletti, Bill Sasso, Terry, Christine McGarry,
Ann Granziel, Mackenzie Cunningham, Theresa Pentz,
Betty Deren, Ann-Marie Andre, John Cordova, Beverly Fresco,
Jean Marie Pettrino, Joe Salinari, Barbara S, Mary Payack,
Jessica Hermans, Justin T. and Elaine Gieger

...A Time to Die...
Pray for the dead
Please pray for those buried in St. Mary's Cemetery
and for those who have died.

...A Time for Peace...
Pray for peace and our enemies in our world,
in our homeland, and in our Church

LITURGY CORNER
Waiting occupies much of our time. We wait for our turn for the dentist. We wait for the curtain to go up on our favorite Broadway show. We wait for the traffic light to turn green. These occasions give rise to varied emotions and feelings - fear, joy, impatience. The waiting is beyond our control - we cannot hasten or delay sitting in the dentist's chair, the rising of the curtain, the changing of the traffic light. We wait passively for something to happen outside of us. Advent is also a time of waiting - but a different waiting. Strangely, we wait for what already has happened - the birth of Christ. We wait - not passively - for the 25th of December, but actively for a new mode of what has already happened; we engage ourselves in waiting for His birth. A few minutes of reflection each day on God's entry into our world as man will make our Advent waiting a time of inner wonder and awe. We then help bring that for which we await - His renewed, deeper presence - not "out there" over 2000 years ago, but within ourselves here and now. May God's blessings be with you this first week of Advent.

FAITH AT HOME
This weekend begins the actual beginning of our Church year, with the First Sunday of Advent. The star is a common symbol in our culture. When we do good work at school, we can expect a gold star. If someone is the best and brightest in their field, they are often called a "star". During the season of Advent, the star is a symbol for Christ, the Light of the World, shining in the darkness, leading all who wander. The star is the guidepost of the Wise Men who were searching for a king, but found a baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. This Advent, every time you see a star, take a moment to think of Christ and how we are all following his star. (Below is a recipe for you to share as a family)

Advent Star Sugar Cookies
Ingredients: 2 3/4 cps of flour, 1 tsp baking soda, ½ tsp baking powder, 1 cp butter (softened), 1 ½ cps sugar, 1 egg, 1 tsp vanilla. Directions: Preheat oven to 375. In a bowl, stir together flour, baking soda and baking powder. Set aside. In another bowl, cream together butter & sugar until smooth. Beat in egg & vanilla. Gradually blend in the dry ingredients. Roll dough out on a cutting board until flat. Using star cookie cutters, cut into large and small stars. Place star cookies onto ungreased cookie sheets. Bake 8-10 mins until golden. Let stand on cookie sheet 2 mins before removing to cool on wire racks. Decorate with white frosting and Advent-colored sprinkles (purple or dark blue). Enjoy your week!

Lisa

ELECTRONIC GIVING AT OLM
Electronic Giving is an easier, more secure way to make your regular contributions to our Church through automated giving. Reasons to sign up for Electronic Giving: 1. No need to write checks or bring cash to church. 2. Peace-of-mind knowing that the church is receiving your contribution even if you are unable to attend. 3. More secure than checks. 4. All contributions are recorded for you on your bank statements with date of settlement. 5. IT COSTS YOU NOTHING!! Sign Up Today. Call the Rectory at 973-887-0050 or click the online giving button on our website: www.ourladyofmercy parish.com Thank you for your continued support of our parish family with your time, talents and treasures

...For everything there is a Reason and a Time...
OLM ACADEMY UPCOMING EVENTS

OLMA’s upcoming events:
- **Christmas Concert** 12/14 7PM
- **Catholic Schools Week Kickoff** 1/29/17 11AM Mass. For more info or a tour of our Academy, please call 973-887-2611.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT OLM

**Thanksgiving Turkey Collection** 11/21 by 12PM; **K of C Christmas Party** 12/3 6:30PM; **Angel Giving Tree** 11/30 - 12/18; **Hanover Wind Symphony Christmas Presence Concert** 12/11 3PM; **Advent Penance Service** 12/20 7:30 PM. Please join us and watch for additional info about the above mentioned events!

**RELIgIOUS FORMATION**

RF sessions resume Tues 11/29 for 1st - 5th gr & 6th-8th gr and on Sun 12/4 for K-5th and 9th & 10th grades. (Confirmation Candidates are required to attend the 11AM Mass. For more info call the Rectory at 973-887-0050 olmRF@ourladyofourmercyparish.com

2016 OLM FALL CALENDAR RAFFLE

Winners from 11/20 - 12/3 will be listed in the December 4th Bulletin. Congratulations to the winners. It's not too late to get your tickets in. Tickets are drawn after the 9:30 AM Mass. REMEMBER YOU MUST BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

**OLM'S HEALTH MINISTRY**

Our Health Ministry is looking for nurses and EMT’s, to help with our Blood Pressure screening held every other month. We are also looking for additional members of our parish who may work in the health/medical field. If you are interested in helping and/or would like more information on how you can help, please contact Kathy Dittrick at: dittrickk@yahoo.com

**4PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS**

We are looking for children to help with our traditional presentation of the Nativity Story. We need animals, shepherds, angels the 3 Wise Men, Joseph and Mary. If your child is interested or you have any questions, please contact Lisa olmlitminwhip@aol.com or 973-887-0767.

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

Once again we will have a Children’s Christmas Choir that will sing at the 4PM Mass on Christmas Eve. Practices will be on Wed, 11/30, 12/7, Tues 12/13 and Mon 12/19 from 4-5PM. It is open for anyone in grades 3-8th. For more info, please contact Lisa at olmlitminwhip@aol.com

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

The American Legion Auxiliary will sponsor a “Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser” on Sun, 11/27 8AM - 12PM at the American Legion. Breakfast will include pancakes, scrambled eggs, breakfast potatoes, sausage and coffee/tea/juice. Adults $8, Children $5. All are welcome!

**GIVING TREE 2016**

For the past couple of years during the Christmas Season we have had a Giving Tree for those who are in need. Since it has been such an overwhelming success we have decided to do it again this year. This year the trees are up. Tags with different gifts listed can be found on the trees, one in the Academy Foyer and one in the back of Church. Please choose as many tags as you would like, and return the UNWRAPPED gifts by 12/11. We need volunteers to help collect, sort and wrap the gifts. It is very easy work and it is also very rewarding. For more info please contact Lisa, our Pastoral Associate at olmlitminwhip@aol.com or our Deacon Vinny LoBello at olmdaconvinny@gmail.com or call 973-738-9542 & if you can help or if you could adopt a family.

**CARING & SHARING BAKE SALE**

To my OLM parish family, Great news! With your loving support our November bake sale was a huge success. We raised $598, which will help our OLM families in need. Father Sean’s Christmas cake raised an additional $142. Congratulations to the winner of the cake raffle, Theresa Ryan. Thanks to our “Caring and Sharing Angels” who were involved in running the bake sale. Special thanks go to Anthony and Sons Bakery, Father Sean and the many volunteer bakers, especially our Confirmation Candidates -- all of whom lovingly baked a delicious array of breads and goodies. I am ever so grateful for all of our Caring & Sharing Angels and your generosity. Blessings, Mimi Margron, Caring & Sharing

**AN INVITATION TO INQUIRE**

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) will be beginning soon here at OLM. If you or someone you know is considering becoming Catholic, would like to become Catholic or would like to complete their initiation through the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation and/or Eucharist, and is unsure of how to get started, please contact our Pastoral Associate, Lisa at olmlitminwhip@aol.com or 973-887-0767. Anyone, 16 or older, is welcome and encouraged to participate!

**K OF C ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Elizabeth Ann Seton Council #6904 of the Knights of Columbus will hold its 30th Annual Family Christmas Party on Sat, Dec 3rd from 6:30 - 10PM at OLM Center. The party features great food, professional entertainment, Santa Claus and an ornament exchange for the children. Admission is one dessert per family. Space is limited to 250 people and reservations are required. If you would like to attend, please complete and eail the attached form by Dec 1st to Peter George by calling 862-812-035 or email him at: petermatthewgeorge@gmail.com

Name

Number of Children Number of Adults

Children’s Ages Phone#

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

We are accepting donations for Christmas flowers again this year. The flowers will be used to decorate the Church and Chapel. If you would like to give a donation for this purpose, either fill out the envelope in your Christmas packet or fill out the form below and return it with your donation either in the collection basket or to the rectory by December 23rd. (please print clearly)

Donated by: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
In Memory of: _________________________
Our Lady of Mercy Church

Presents

A Christmas Presence

With the Critically Acclaimed

Hanover Wind Symphony

Sunday December 11, 2016 at 3:00 P.M.

Come, join us for our 9th annual joyous afternoon of Christmas music presented by the renowned Hanover Wind Symphony. They will be accompanied by the combined adult choirs of Our Lady of Mercy, Notre Dame Church, Hildale Park and the First Presbyterian Church of Whippany. Tickets will be $15.00 per person and children under 12 years old are free. In conjunction with our concert we will have an Ad Book to assist us with concert expenses. We humbly ask you to support this effort by taking an ad in our book in the following way:

- Full Page: $135
- Half Page: $85
- Quarter Page: $50
- Benefactor: $20
- Patron: $10
- Booster: $5

Please send ads and checks, made out to OLM,

Mail to: Our Lady of Mercy Rectory
         c/o A Christmas Presence
         9 Parsippany Road
         Whippany, N.J. 07981

We thank you in advance for your support and generosity.