

Our Christian Walk

The Gazette Of Grace

Dec,Jan,Feb/Winter Issue 2014-15

Serving The Community Of Our Lady Of Grace



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Dorothy's Note

Dorothy Sokol, Parish Life Director



Introducing Susan Carbone, Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation

We welcomed Susan Carbone to the staff at Our Lady of Grace this fall. Susan comes to us from Long Island with her father, brother and puppy.

How did she find us? On the Diocesan website, of course!

She brings 21 years of experience as the Coordinator for Religious Education in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. The K- 8 program of 1500 students as well as the day to day work of a large religious education program, Susan also worked with the team in organizing retreat days, liturgies and prayer services. She also accompanied the young people for movie nights and baseball games.

Susan plays guitar and loves all kinds of music. She is an avid baseball fan and is passionate about the Yankees. After vacationing upstate for many years, Susan looks forward to living here.

Welcome Susan!

Our prayers are with you as you settle in.



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OLG Mission Statement

We are a welcoming community of believers, being disciples of Christ through worship, the Sacraments, ongoing faith formation, evangelization and Christian service to others!

My Walk with God

by Chris Bushee

I've read so many of these letters since coming to OLG, and have loved all of them. I'm not sure if this will have any impact on you, the way some have had on me. But maybe if you just think of it as a THANK YOU, it will, because I really do love my church... the fellowship, the sense of community, the people, everything! This is the story of how God led me to THIS church :-)

I grew up Catholic, but being raised by Irish/Italians who attended Catholic School in Flushing, NY, it was not meant to be an **enjoyable** experience. We did the requirements, what was expected of us and honestly... nothing more. There were no church suppers or gatherings after mass; you sat there, QUIETLY and then left. I don't even recall if I ever went to church again after making my Confirmation.

Fast forward some 10 years later... I'm with a friend who's getting married and she's "shopping around" for a church to hold the ceremony in and that's when it happened... I met Pastor Jeff Stratton at the Round Lake United Methodist Church, and just fell in love with the community. What a sweet little church, such nice people He had a wonderful family and finally... I felt **CONNECTED** to a member of the clergy and a church community. I went there for about 15 years, even though I knew nothing of the "United Methodist" ways, but I loved it there. He married Ed and I, baptized Allie, married my brother and his wife, and then buried my brother. He was there for all the important events in my life. When my brother, Vinny Vallone, died, I had his memorial service at RLUMC. Every week I sat there and relived it all over again. When Pastor Jeff got transferred to South Glens Falls, it was time to go.

I tried Northway Fellowship and yes, Pastor Buddy was entertaining, but I never felt a connection. I would sit there among 300 others and ask myself... if I dropped dead tomorrow, would anybody here even miss me? There were no sacraments, no sense of tradition, no religious feelings or fellowship. My daughter even called it "The Rock & Roll Church." I was lost again.

But luckily, I met Michael Darling.

When his son, Alec, started kindergarten, they would hang out on the corner with us waiting for the bus. Of course all the big topics were discussed... him winning the lottery, politics and yes, religion. When I told him I was thinking of going back to the Catholic Church, he invited me to OLG. Of course had I known he sat in the **FRONT ROW**, I may not have said yes!! And then it happened again... I walked into OLG and met Mary Salm and fell in love all over again.

I have made so many wonderful new friends here, and I love knowing that I'm raising my daughter "in the church." The first time we attended a church supper and I saw my daughter bussing the tables and asking Dorothy where the broom was so she could sweep the floors, I knew we were home.

Thank you Mike, and everyone for welcoming this lost sheep.



Fundraising for OLG

By Dorothy Sokol

The Committee of dedicated women currently part of the Fundraising Committee have taken on the responsibility to try to add \$10,000 to the operating budget each year. We are so grateful!

We try to focus on FUN in the fundraising. Winning money is fun. Having food is fun. Celebrating Mardi Gras is fun. Yard Sale finds are fun. If you have any fun ideas, we'd love to hear them.

The FUN FALL RAFFLE has many happy winners and generous losers who helped bring in over \$700.

The SCRIP program where gift cards are purchased and a percentage is a profit for church usually garners about \$900.

After Christmas our ideas include:

- Mardi Gras on February 14, 6 – 8:30 pm will be a potluck dinner with desserts and raffles and kids' activities.
- St. Patrick's Pot of Gold on March 14 & 15 where for \$10 you have a grab bag that will be worth \$10 or much more!
- Take out Ziti Dinner sometime this Spring. Ziti, meatballs and sauce all ready for serving.
- Spring Fling Raffle with 31 chances to win!
- Yard Sale in June. Give us your treasures and let us sell them for the OLG!

When these events come along, we are always looking for extra help. Thank you for being generous with your time and supporting these events in any way you can.



Meet Christine Neumann




Christine Neuman, 21 years old, has been an altar server at Our Lady of Grace for six years. She decided upon this ministry because she wished to help the community. She saw a need, and fills it with a smile and loyal steadfastness.

Christine said this ministry makes her feel happy! She really enjoys helping others and will continue serving as long as she can.

She also plays a beautiful violin during Mass when she is not a server, accompanying the choir with her strings of love. Christine notes that both ministries have helped her deepen her relationship with God!

(OLG invites all young people to consider volunteering in this ministry.)

Kids Korner



A Child is Born

Jesus received many different names — even before he was born. Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) prophesies about four of these names.

Directions: Unscramble the words on the name tags below. (Hint: The first letter is capitalized.)

MY NAME IS
 gyhMti

 dGo


MY NAME IS
 lerWnofud

 esnrUooCl

MY NAME IS
 vrelEnsitga

 eahFrt

MY NAME IS
 niPcre
 _____ of
 aPcee



Answers: Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

Hey Kids!

Your minds and hearts are abuzz with, “what special gift can I give mom, dad, or sis, or bro? It’s exciting to give gifts, but cost is never to be a factor. The gift of self is the most valuable gift of all! Be creative as you wrap up a box containing yourself!

- * I will clean the bathrooms for the next month
- * I will shovel the driveway
- * I will pick up the toys without being asked
- * I will create a special dessert for our family dinner
- * I will make my bed every day
- * I will make an effort to not argue or fight with my sibling(s)
- * I will say grace at meals

You too, can visualize dozens of ideas! Give the surprise of love!!



Here is Peter Petrillose preparing to surprise us with decadent ice cream sundaes on a warm summer morning. What a treat! Anyone for snow cones????



"He's today's greeter."

How Are We Doing?

by Ann Cotrupi

“A perspective: based on the story, THE OTHER WISE MAN by Henry Van Dyke, published in 1895.

Much like the Three Wise Men of old, we also have seen a star in the sky and set out to follow it. How meaningful the stories of Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar are to our own journey. As people of faith, we too are searching for signs of the Savior in the world. When we think about it, these stories of the Wise Men reflect our own stories in many ways.

Knowing we have certain gifts to bring to the banquet of life fills us with the energy and desire to give something of ourselves to others. We use our talent and treasure as we move forward, hoping to make our mark and leave a respectable legacy behind us. Something of worth to those who follow—something of eternal value.

As time goes on, we now and then sense that many of our earlier dreams may not be realized because delays in our personal quest for fulfillment, caused by so many various calls to service, distract us. Pulled this way and that, we fortify ourselves by uniting with others sharing the same journey—a journey that is often joyful, but sometimes discouraging as these calls for help multiply and grow ever more urgent.

With no Jesus in sight, we believe it is somehow up to us to try to hold together this world that God has created. We cross paths with countless people from all economic walks of life. As a rule, we do not have access to the rich and powerful in society, so we look for Jesus among the poor and the lowly, the sorrowful and the sick. We believe it is important to try to ease their burden in any way we can.

As time goes on it becomes clearer to us that more than a few of the things we have dreamed of are not going to happen. Even our dream of finding the King in our lifetime is fading somewhat, and all the remaining things of value we have clung to are dwindling. For some of us, our last remaining bits

of treasure will soon be spent, until the One we have searched for so long finally calls us by name. Perhaps it won't be until then that we'll fully understand and be forever thankful that we took His words to heart and simply acted on his teachings ...

“For I was hungry and you gave me food...thirsty and you gave me drink. A stranger, and you welcomed me, naked, and you clothed me. I was ill, and you cared for me... In prison, and you visited me...”

Then may we rise glorified in His presence and rejoice. Because our outer journey in the body, mirrored by the inner journey of our soul, has finally brought us face to face.



WHAT SHALL WE GIVE HIM?

Determination

By Janet Troidle

Driving snow and wind
whipped her to and fro
a single sun-kissed leaf
mottled and dry
hung from a barren maple

all of her friends
had fallen away

no longer
stitched to this
tree of life

but this one leaf
continued
to thwart the elements
with the fragile thread
of undying strength.

Mary - Pillar of Strength*An Advent Meditation*

You, Mary, a beautiful young Jewish woman
 A child really, barely a teen:
 Visited by an angel, named Gabriel,
 With an invitation that completely changed
 Your life and all of history!

"Hail Mary, full of grace, The Lord is with you!"

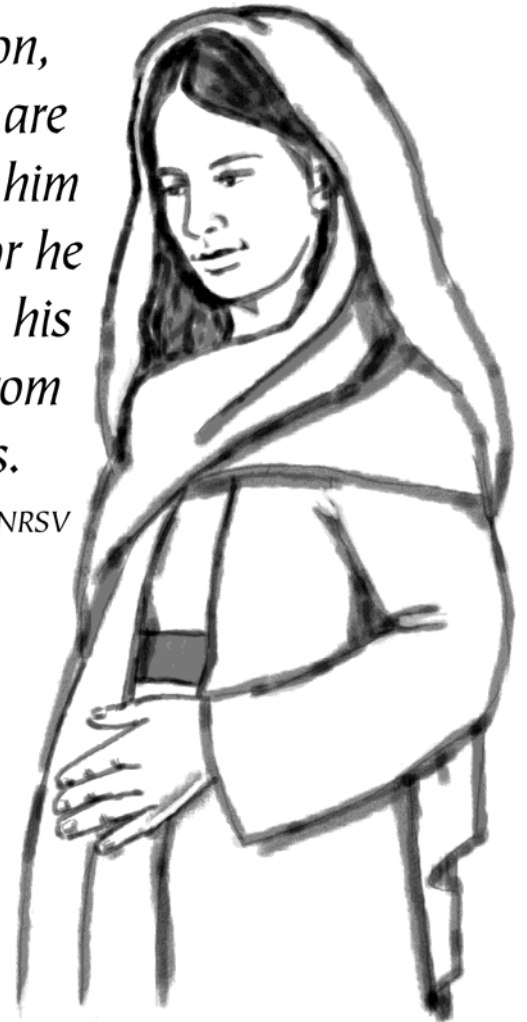
Your yes revealed the depth of your faith
 Your yes was probably laced with fear...
 Your yes engulfed you,
 Thrust you into a cavern of commitment.
 Filled with a deep and abiding love of God
 Your yes was your first step
 Toward giving us a role model
 Unmatched by any other human being!

Soft, gentle, perhaps small in stature
 You became a tower of strength
 A woman whose gift of self
 Affected all of history, all of us.

Your blessedness arose out of a life of faith.
 Your first question was probably one of many...
 "How is it that my Lord would choose me,
 a lowly servant?" *Anonymous*

*She will
 bear a son,
 and you are
 to name him
 Jesus, for he
 will save his
 people from
 their sins.*

Matthew 1:21, NRSV



(Editor's note) Everyday, we are faced with like decisions. Yes, we too, follow in your footsteps - as "people of strength. "How is it that my Lord would ask me to care for a sick parent, husband, or child; what are you asking of me in my marriage? How can I endure the emotional or physical pain that encompasses my life every day? Where are you in the disease that racks my body? Did you promise me your presence in the fear that frequently envelopes me? Are you with me in this cave of loneliness? Will you strengthen me as I carry this disabled child? Will you help me, help others, if I say yes?

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb! Your heart resounded a great and unflagging YES to that space between His birth, His death and His Resurrection!

Thank you Mary for showing us how to walk in faith and not by sight. This is the today we seek; we too, are a people desiring always to become stronger as we feed upon the empowering example you set for us. You have experienced all that we will ever know in our daily journey.

Youth Ministry Updates

Grace Fay, Pastoral Associate for
Youth Ministry

Retreats are quickly approaching. Please make sure that you have the appropriate dates marked on your calendars.

Grades 7 & 8: March 7th at OLG
or
January 10th at St. Joseph's

Grade 9: February 28th at St.
Joseph's

Grade 10: December 20th at OLG

Confirmation: March 21-22 at
Pyramid Life Center
or
February 7th at OLG



National Catholic Youth Conference
2015

We are already in the planning stages for NCYC 2015 in Indianapolis, IN. The group will be chosen just before the holidays. If you are interested in attending this conference, contact Grace. We will be looking for fun fundraising ideas, so if you think of anything please let us know.



IMPORTANT DATES

FOR YOUR CALENDAR!

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 8
7:00 p.m. Mass

Advent/First Reconciliation Service

Tuesday, December 9
7:00 p.m.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 20
5:00 p.m. Mass
Sunday, December 21
8:15 & 10:15 a.m. Masses



Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24
4:30 p.m. Carols
5:00 p.m. Children's Mass
7:30 p.m. Carols
8:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25
9:45 a.m. Carols
10:00 a.m. Mass

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 27
5:00 p.m. Mass
Sunday, December 28
8:15 & 10:15 a.m. Masses

Feast of Mary, Mother of God

Thursday, January 1, 2015
10:00 a.m. Mass

The Epiphany of The Lord

Saturday, January 3, 2015
5:00 p.m. Mass
Sunday January 4, 2015
8:15 & 10:15 a.m. Masses

It is challenging to think about Lent now as we enter Advent and preparation for the coming of the Christ Child. But as we view the bigger picture, these two celebrations are indelibly linked. We are invited to contemplate and pray through these seasons, fully aware of the blessing cup we have received from the both the birth and death of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2015
Noon Service with distribution of ashes
7:00 p.m. Mass with distribution of ashes



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Note From Editor:

We welcome your comments, suggestions and contributions. We would like to use this newsletter to share the faith and Christian action of our parishioners. Please send stories about your ministry, e-mail photos; tell us about a person, or bible passages which have had a positive influence on you or your family, your poetry, your journey.

We are published quarterly, with deadlines as follows:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Dec-Jan-Feb /winter	Nov 5
Mar-Apr-May /spring	Feb 5
Jun-Jul-Aug /summer	May 5
Sept-Oct-Nov /fall	Aug 5

Our Cluster Parishes:
Saint Joseph's Website:
<http://www.stjosephschurchscotia.net>

Immaculate Conception Website:
<http://www.ic-glennville.com/>

Do you have questions or suggestions you wish raised at the next pastoral council meeting? Contact one of the members listed below.

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The entire staff of OLG extend their warmest wishes to each parishioner and their family, for a blessed and spirit-filled Christmas season.

May the Newborn Christ Child warm your hearts with His loving smile!

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