

Parish Mission Statement

We the people of Our Lady of the Snows Parish are a Catholic Christian community who reach out to one another and to all people by teaching and giving witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ. Our mission is to invite all to hear, share, and live the Word of God. We try to inspire an awareness of our faith and to encourage others to renew and energize that faith in Jesus and His Church. We want to welcome the entire community to enjoy the warmth and love of our parish by participating fully in the sacramental life of the Church.

Masses

Saturday 5:00 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM
and 5:30 PM Mass in Malayalam

Weekdays 9:00 AM and 12:00 Noon

Saturday Mornings 9:00 AM

Civil Holidays 9:00 AM

Holy Days of Obligation See Parish Bulletin

Latin Rite Catholic Mass in Malayalam:

Second Saturday of the month at 6:30 PM and
each Sunday at 5:30 PM

Miraculous Medal Novena:

Following all Masses on Monday.

Eucharistic Adoration:

First Friday of the month from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM in
the Church. Holy Hour from 8:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Also,
every Thursday from 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM in the
Church.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturdays at 1PM and on request.

Baptism:

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the third and
fourth Sundays of each month at 2:00 P.M. Please call
the Parish Office to make an appointment. A baptism
preparation class will be held on the second Wednesday
of each month in the Church. Attendance at this class is
required by the parents of the child to be baptized.

Marriage:

Please call the Parish Office at least 6 months in
advance of the marriage date to make an appointment
with a priest to discuss your marriage plans.

Anointing of the Sick:

Please call (718) 347-6070 for arrangements.

Catholic Cemeteries:

For information and available options please call
(718) 894-4888.

Served by the Pastoral Staff

Pastor: Rev. Kevin F. McBrien

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Jeremy Canna

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Hung Cao

Deacons: Matthew Oellinger, Steven Borheck,
John Warren, Kevin Hughes

Pastoral Associate: Mrs. Regina Moreno

Seminarian: Alex Olszewski

Academy Principal: Mr. Joseph Venticinque

Human Concerns Director: Ms. Doreen Walz

Director of Music: Mrs. Lisa Kelly

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Melissa Spengler

Secretary: Ms. Teresa Peveraro

Hours: Monday to Thursday 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM &
Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. The Parish Office is
closed weekdays from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM

Saturday 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Sunday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Parish Office (718) 347-6070

For emergencies call (718) 347-6070 ext. *842

Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Academy

(718) 343-1346

Secretary: Mrs. Jill Buttry

School Website: www.olscafp.org

Faith Formation Office

(718) 347-3511

Secretary: Mrs. Esther Liberto

Human Concerns Center

(718) 347-6229

Secretary: Mrs. Virgilia Rillera

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK
SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2020
Fifth Sunday of Lent

All Masses will be offered privately by the parish priests

Sunday, March 29

Deacon Hank Smith

Helen Dubhlan

Collective Mass:

Jose Crespi, Eamon Rainsford,
Anita D'Agostino, Joseph Haffey,
Maureen McCann, Mama Parmar,
Robert L. Hollis, Eva Campbell,
Burton Lasher, Rosario Laurea-Living

People of the Parish

In Thanksgiving
Terence and Thresia Nedumparambil

Monday, March 30

Michael and Mary Ann Zaczek

Deceased Members of the
Kuziamplayil and Nettikaadan Families

Tuesday, March 31

Harry and Loretta Stahl

Virginia Creed-6th Anniversary

Wednesday, April 1

Sara Tufano

Living and Deceased Members of the
Alicea and Alvarez Family

Thursday, April 2

John and Hedwig Speth

Giuseppe Catania

Friday, April 3

Assunta and Pasquale Tufano

Salvatore Capolarello

Saturday, April 4

Anthony D'Arrigo

Sunday, April 5

People of the Parish

Domenic Monaco-Birthday Remembrance

Collective Mass:

Joseph Sarlo, Miguel Angel Garcia ,
Mary Musco, Colleen I. Ngai, Richard Nicolais
John Del Rosario-Birthday Remembrance
Caridad Saguin, Kathleen Bomber,
Rosario P. Navarro, Robert J. Schaefer

Karen Mary Smith, Beulah Matayko Smith

All Souls in Purgatory

THIS WEEK AT OLS

ALL PARISH MEETINGS, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES
ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION, PLEASE FEEL
FREE TO CALL THE PARISH OFFICE

THE SANCTUARY LAMP
for the week was donated
in Loving Memory of
JOHN AND MARY CREED
requested by
The Creed Family

IN YOUR CHARITY PLEASE PRAY FOR

The sick, homebound and hospitalized . . .
Joseph Chiofolo, Bernadette Jean-Louis,
Virginia Kurylas, Sharon Larkin, Tara Lockwood,
Angelina Rocha

All Our Faithful Departed Loved Ones

OLS Sunday Collection Report

Due to closure of the Parish Office collection amounts will be posted in future bulletins. Thank you for your generosity during this difficult time and please continue to send your envelopes through the mail slot at the Parish Office or through regular mail. Please see a special insert in today's bulletin about GiveCentral which is widely used throughout the Diocese. Please consider signing up and follow the simple steps to enroll. Thank you for all you do!

Dear Parishioners,

Here is a reflection and prayer by Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) during this trying time.

With the worldwide outbreak of the coronavirus, we are confronted once more with the fragility of our lives, and again we are reminded of our common humanity—that the peoples of this world are our brothers and sisters, that we are all one family under God.

God does not abandon us, he goes with us even now in this time of trial and testing. In this moment, it is important for us to anchor our hearts in the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Now is the time to intensify our prayers and sacrifices for the love of God and the love of our neighbor. Let us draw closer to one another in our love for him, and rediscover the things that truly matter in our lives.

United with our Holy Father Pope Francis, let us pray in solidarity for our brothers and sisters here and around the world who are sick. Let us pray for those who have lost loved ones to this virus. May God console them and grant them peace.

We pray also for doctors, nurses, and caregivers, for public health officials and all civic leaders. May God grant them courage and prudence as they seek to respond to this emergency with compassion and in service to the common good.

In this time of need, I invite all the faithful to seek together the maternal intercessions of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and I share this prayer with you:

*Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,
Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.
We fly to you today as your beloved children.
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,
as you did at the wedding of Cana.*

*Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.*

*For those already afflicted
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.*

*In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.*

*We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.*

*Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.*

Our Lady of the Snows Ways to Give Electronically



The Sunday offertory is critical to the vitality of our parish. Not just to pay the bills that continue to accrue, but to sustain the life-giving works carried out each day by our dedicated personnel, devoted clergy, and faithful lay leaders.

I am pleased to announce that we now offer electronic giving through a simple tool that provides you with the opportunity to support the parish in a way that is convenient and secure, while remaining in the safety of your home.

Our new online giving partner is GiveCentral, and we want you to know that 100% of the donations you make through GiveCentral come to the parish.

Donations can be made using a bank account or credit card, scheduled in advance to occur on a recurring basis, or as individual one-time gifts. With your first donation you can create a confidential username and password, allowing you to edit your donation schedule at any time.

GiveCentral makes it easy for you to give. Please consider choosing one of the following options to set up your gift to Our Lady of the Snows today.

From your mobile phone, text our new text-to-engage number: **413-300-6070**

- Text the word **SUNDAY** for a quick link to make an offertory gift
- Text the keyword **QUICK** to update your contact information so we can stay in touch with you in the coming weeks

Or, just scan these QR codes with your camera to quickly do the same:

SUNDAY GIVING



QUICK CONTACT UPDATE



From your tablet or desktop computer:

- Donate from our own express giving page at <http://givecentral.org/olsnows>
- Update your contact information at <http://givecentral.org/short-form/688>

Do you use GiveCentral for the Annual Catholic Appeal? Great! You can use your existing profile to give to Our Lady of the Snows:

Log in to your GiveCentral profile at givecentral.org/location/688

LENTEN RICE BOWLS

LENTEN RICE BOWLS

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Parish Lenten Almsgiving in support of Catholic Relief Services. During this week, Monday to Friday, please return your cardboard rice bowl(s) that you used throughout Lent placing spare change in the bowl. We kindly ask you to change the coins to dollars and drop off the rice bowl(s) at the Parish Office and not in the church. Thank you for your sacrificial giving and support of Catholic Relief Services this Lent.



CHRISTIAN INITIATION. Do you know a family member or friend who is interested in becoming a Catholic? The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a wonderful process in our parish available to those who feel called to the Catholic Faith. The RCIA is also available for those Catholics who have not yet received First Communion or Confirmation and those interested in becoming Catholic. Please call the Faith Formation Office (718-347-3511) for more information.

WEBSITES

PARISH/SCHOOL WEBSITES.

Visit www.olsnows.org and see an abundance of information about our parish including its history, parish ministries and special events, the weekly bulletin and much more. Visit www.olscafp.org and find out important information about exciting upcoming school events. Happy surfing!

LOVE OF NEIGHBOR

LOVE OF NEIGHBOR. During this time of coronavirus, let us consider some of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy by offering prayers, making phone calls, sending an email or text, etc. to loved ones and to those who are confined to their homes during this time. Without a doubt it will make a world of difference!

ROBOCALLS

ROBOCALLS. This past Tuesday, March 24th, Father McBrien made a robocall to over 1400 households in the parish as another source of communications besides the parish website. Some parishioners do not have access to the parish website and the first robocall seemed successful and pleasing to many in the parish. Stay tuned for more ways of keeping in touch during this challenging time.



During this time in which many of us are spending more time without much formal activity, we may recall that many in the Church have committed themselves to a life of contemplation. Below is the Church's teaching on "hermits." While perhaps most of us will be called to serve God in some more "active" way in our lives, we may feel like "hermits" for a while as we stay indoors for our safety. Let us stay in solidarity with our brothers and sisters who have embraced the contemplative life as their way of glorifying God.

"Hermits 'devote their life to the praise of God and salvation of the world through a stricter separation from the world, the silence of solitude and assiduous prayer and penance.' They manifest to everyone the interior aspect of the mystery of the Church, that is, personal intimacy with Christ. Hidden from the eyes of men, the life of the hermit is a **silent preaching** of the Lord, to whom he has surrendered his life simply because he is everything to him. Here is a particular call to **find in the desert**, in the thick of spiritual battle, the glory of the Crucified One."

Are you called to devote your life to the praise of God in a special way in the Church, either through a contemplative or some more active manner? Or maybe someone you know? Tell a staff member of the parish, or call the Diocesan Vocations Office at 718-827-7454 (e-mail: vocations@diobrook.org).

We are a Eucharistic People: Spiritual Communion



We are a Eucharistic people – a Eucharistic Church. The Eucharist, the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, is the center of our faith and, by extension, our lives. What, then, are we to do, to feel, in the current crisis in which access to the Body and Blood of Christ is limited?

The most important thing that we must do is pray – pray for the mercy of God, for His healing, for His strength in these times. We must also consider what it means to be a Eucharistic people, because this manner of defining ourselves is not limited to being a people who receives the Eucharist at Mass. It is the fuller reality which should be focused on in these times of crisis. For many centuries the People of God did not receive the Eucharist, were not even offered it, but twice a year, and yet, we were still a Eucharistic people. Thanks to the leadership of Pope St. Pius X, who asked that the Eucharistic Lord be offered to the laity at every Mass in

his 1910 encyclical, *Quam singulari*, Catholics around the world gained greater access to this beloved gift of the Church. Never would the Church want to return to the days in which the people did not receive the Eucharist frequently.

However, we must remember that many great saints lived and thrived prior to 1910. These men and women recognized the Eucharistic presence in the bread and wine, but understood other dimensions of this great Mystery as well. The word *eucharist* itself gives a hint to this deeper meaning – “to give thanks”. A Eucharistic people comes together in liturgy not simply to receive something, but to bring something to the celebration as well. To bring to God our sacrifice of praise, our thanksgiving to Him for all the blessings he has bestowed upon us. To be a Eucharistic people means to draw on the Holy Spirit dwelling within us and actively join ourselves, our prayers, with those of Jesus Christ to the Father, as we are members of his Mystical Body. We must remember the sacrificial element of the Mass and our proper role in this sacrament. By joining ourselves to the liturgical prayer, we connect ourselves to the Cross, to the sacrifice of Calvary.

In the present crisis something has been taken from us – direct access to the Eucharist in the Body and Blood of Christ. However, we can still offer ourselves to the Father with Christ, as St. Paul says: “I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:1-2). In all that we do, especially in times of crisis and suffering, we must present ourselves as “living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God.” This is the fullness of the meaning of being a Eucharistic people. We live a sacrificial life, giving ourselves to others as Christ did for us on the Cross.

Now, this does not alleviate the true pain that we feel in the present moment when access to the Mass and the Precious Body and Blood of Christ is limited. But it should allow us to join more fully in the Eucharistic reality at the heart of the Church. We can continue to offer ourselves for

our families, for those who are suffering. We pray for those affected by this terrible epidemic and for its conclusion. We follow the liturgies of the Church and the liturgical year as best we can – reading the daily readings and meditating on them, meditating on our rich Eucharistic prayers, watching televised or streamed masses. We bring the Eucharist, the *thanksgiving*, into our homes and families. Importantly, we make a *spiritual communion*. The Church has taught through the centuries that when a person is not able to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Mass, we can still unite ourselves to Him in prayer. It is a beautiful way to express our desire for union with Him and with his Church. This act of spiritual communion was encouraged by many of the great saints of our past – Padre Pio, Alphonsus Liguori, and Josemaria Escriva, to name a few, the latter who said, “What a source of grace there is in spiritual communion! Practice it frequently and you’ll have greater presence of God and closer union with him in all your actions.”

How does one make this act of communion? At the time of Communion in the Mass or immediately after, one would make a prayer expressing their desire to receive Christ and asking him to come into their hearts. St. Alphonsus Liguori provides a beautiful example of such a prayer of spiritual communion:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

This prayer is not a substitute for the Eucharistic Lord but can unite us to him throughout the day and demonstrate our love for Christ and the Eucharist. If reception of communion is not possible for you in these times or at any time, because of sickness, age, distance, this prayer or a personal prayer which conveys the same love of Christ and desire to be with him may be offered. Jesus responds to prayer.

The Church has not abandoned anyone in these times of need. Our churches remain open. Priests are available for confessions and anointing of the sick and desire to bring God’s merciful love to all in need. Priests offer masses daily for the People of God and their needs. Because of the danger of viral infection, large gatherings may not be possible, which may limit access to Mass throughout the world, but the Church continues to beseech God for her people in her time of need.

We are a Eucharistic People. Let us never forget this. Let us extend the graces of the Eucharist into the world by uniting ourselves to the sacrifice of the Lord and offering ourselves for others in prayer and service just as Christ offered himself on the cross. Let us pray that the Eucharistic Lord will be returned to us soon. No greater gift has been given to us! He is the center of our lives. But let us live as a Eucharistic people, as saints seeking Christ in all things, an offering Him to others in our words and actions.

Fr. Nile Gross, STL
Director, Office of Worship
Archdiocese of New Orleans

Catholic Bible

-Paul Turner

The Bible used by the Catholic Church includes a few books that some other Christians do not consider equally sacred. The formation of the Bible took many centuries, and there is still not complete agreement over which books belong between its covers.

The Old Testament evolved from ancient books written mostly in Hebrew. By the third century BCE, these were being translated into Greek along with a few books not so widely regarded as sacred Scripture. The collection was called the "Septuagint," and it was favored by many early Christians who knew Greek. In the fourth century CE, St. Jerome learned enough Hebrew to translate the Old Testament into Latin, and that collection has been called the "Vulgate." Jerome omitted some questionable books from the Septuagint. Still, there were disputes about what belonged in a Bible.

In the 16th Century, Martin Luther placed a number of the disputed books of the Bible in a separate section called "apocrypha." Luther and the Reformers questioned the status of some New Testament books also, but today's Christian churches generally agree on the same 27 of them.

The Catholic Bible includes some Old Testament books not found in other Bibles, such as Judith, Torbit, and 1 and 2 Maccabees. Verses from some of these offended the opinions of Protestant Reformers. Catholics used 2 Maccabees 12:43-45 to defend the teaching on purgatory and Torbit 12:9 to exhort the merits of good works. Excerpts from these books may show up, for example, at a Catholic funeral or wedding, when Christians from other churches may be present. The difference in these few books should not obscure the realization that Catholics have substantial agreement with other Christians about the content and importance of the Bible.

(This bulletin insert originally appeared in Ministry & Liturgy, Copyright@2007 Resource Publications, 160 E. Virginia Street #290, San Jose, CA 95112 (408)286-8505.)

CHURCH DONATION REQUEST FORM

If you would like to have a record of your Church contributions for 2019, please let us know by filling out the form below and returning it to the parish office. **PLEASE NOTE: Repair & Maintenance donations (Green Envelopes) have been recorded with Sunday Collection contributions before being transferred to the Building Fund.**

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY WITH COMPLETE ADDRESS)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Church Envelope Number: _____

PALM BRANCHES

PALM BRANCHES. Next Sunday on Palm Sunday weekend the distribution of blessed palm will take place at the main doors of the church on 259th Street. Everyone is welcomed to pick up their own branches to place in their homes.