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CHURCH**

SANCTUARY OF THE

Madonna della Difesa

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be with
you this
season of
JOY



FEED YOUR SPIRIT

Back to the basics ... What We Believe

"HE WAS CONCEIVED BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND WAS BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY"

THE SON OF GOD BECAME MAN

I. WHY DID THE WORD BECOME FLESH?

With the Nicene Creed, we answer by confessing: "For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man."

The Word became flesh for us in order to save us by reconciling us with God, who "loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation on for our sins": "the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world," and "he was revealed to take away sins":

Sick, our nature demanded to be healed; fallen, to be raised up; dead, to rise again. We had lost the possession of the good; it was necessary for it to be given back to us. Closed in the darkness, it was necessary to bring us the light; captives, we awaited a Savior; prisoners, help; slaves, a liberator. Are these things minor or insignificant? Did they not move God to descend to human nature and visit it, since humanity was in so miserable and unhappy a state?

The Word became flesh so that thus we might know God's love: "In this, the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him." "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

The Word became flesh to be our model of holiness: "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me." "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me." On the mountain of the Transfiguration, the Father commands: "Listen to him!" Jesus is the model for the beatitudes and the norm of the new law: "Love one another as I have

loved you." This love implies an effective offering of oneself, after his example.

The Word became flesh to make us "partakers of the divine nature": "For this is why the Word became man, and the Son of God became the Son of man: so that man, by entering into communion with the Word and thus receiving divine sonship, might become a son of God." "For the Son of God became man so that we might become God." "The only-begotten Son of God, wanted to make us sharers in his divinity, assumed our nature, so that he, made man, might make men gods."

II. THE INCARNATION

Taking up St. John's expression, "The Word became flesh", The Church calls "Incarnation" the fact that the Son of God assumed a human nature in order to accomplish our salvation in it. In a hymn cited by St. Paul, the Church sings the mystery of the incarnation.

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

The Letter to the Hebrews refers to the same mystery:

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, *"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, Lo, I have come to do your will, O God."*

Belief in the true Incarnation of the Son of God is the distinctive sign of Christian faith: "By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit which confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God." Such is the joyous conviction of the Church from her beginning whenever she sings "the mystery of our religion": "He was manifested in the flesh."

Year End Donations to Our Lady of Grace Parish

All donations received through 11:59 pm on December 31 (or postmarked by then), either by mail, hand-delivered or through the mail slot on the front door of the parish office at 4 Lafayette Street, will be included in the 2017 year.

—Giving before year end benefits both you and the parish.

—Your generosity enables us to meet our needs and carry out our mission.

You will receive a charitable deduction on your federal income taxes when you itemize.

Ways You Can Give:

Gifts of Cash

You can make a cash gift by currency, credit card or check. If you are issuing a check, the effective date of your contribution is the date it is hand-delivered or mailed.

Gifts of Securities

Stocks or other investments that have grown in value and that you have owned longer than one year can become a substantial gift with a low net cost to you. You receive a charitable deduction for the donation which is based on the stock's fair market value on the date of the gift.

Grand Annual Collection

Dear Parishioners and Benefactors,

As you know, the Grand Annual Collection is used to supplement the income that comes mostly from the weekly collection that is taken up at every Sunday Mass. Thanks to your generosity, over the past eleven years, we have been able to pay our bills and to accomplish expensive repairs and renovation of our buildings without incurring any debt.

We are grateful to all of you for what you do for your parish. We need everyone's help, and we appeal in a special way to those who ordinarily do not contribute to the finances of the Parish. I pray that at least once a year, they welcome our plea to extend a donation, as generous as their means permit, to our parish.

To all who have given, thank you, we have raised \$25,000 to date and we are getting close to our goal of \$33,000.

We entrust ourselves and all of you to the Divine Providence by which God generously provides for our material and spiritual needs. May He inspire all of us to imitate His generosity in sharing whatever He entrusts to us, His stewards, and to do all that we can to share in the saving mission of Christ and His Church.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Peter J. Gower

OLG CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Join us Sunday, December 24th at 3:30pm for the Annual Parish Christmas Concert. This community event will be a time of enjoying great Christmas music performed by "Timeless" 4 young men from our area, students from Lasalle Academy. This is a free event, so please invite your friends and neighbors to this night celebrating the Christmas season through music. After the concert we will celebrate The Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord with Christmas Mass.

St. Anne Sodality

Our Annual 12 Day of Christmas Card sale continues!
Our Sodality members are selling the cards at all Masses. Each card is \$10.00 with a total of \$2200 in Prizes. There will be a drawing each day for 12 days beginning on December 26th.

Rectory Open House

Sunday, December 31st following
9am Mass

Father Peter and Our Lady of Grace Pastoral Council are extending an invitation to all parishioners to come to an Open House at the Rectory. Please stop in after mass and enjoy the beautiful Christmas decorations and some great food. Most especially let us join together in fellowship and celebrate the beginning of a New Year. All are welcome!

Christmas Decorations



The Christmas trees, the wreaths and the poinsettias which adorn our sanctuary at Christmas are offered to honor the birth of Christ and to glorify God.

We invite you to memorialize members of your family, friends or other loved ones with a donation for our Christmas decoration. Those you memorialize will be remembered in all my Christmas Masses.



The holiday season is typically a time for families to gather around the dinner table, break bread, share stories and enjoy one another's company.

Unfortunately, not every individual or family is able to partake in the joy of the season due to hard economic times. At Our Lady of Grace, we strive to help families in need enjoy the holidays like everyone else and forget — at least temporarily — about their tough situations.

The Pannese Society has traditionally sponsored this Christmas Baskets program for families in the Johnston community. The Pannese society in conjunction with the parish of Our Lady of Grace provides groceries and so much more in our Christmas Baskets program.



Weekend of

December 9th & 10th, 2017

Weekly Collection:	\$ 3,451.00
Religious Retirement:	\$ 293.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$ 358.00
On-line giving:	<u>\$ 197.00</u>
Total:	\$ 4,299.00

Readings & Music for December 16th/17th. Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)



- Readings:** #1008 or pg. 25
- Entrance:** On Jordan's Bank #392
- Offertory:** Maranatha, Lord Messiah #412
- Communion:** Say to the Faint of Heart
- Recessional:** O Come Divine Messiah #387

**Do you like to sing, but you keep it to yourself? At home when no one is around? Alone in the car?
Join the OLG Choir and let your Voice be Heard!**

Choir rehearsals are held on Mondays, at 7 p.m. in the church. Anyone interested is invited to attend. If you're interested, but unable to be there, see Jeff after any weekend mass.

Religious Education News



Religious Education classes are in recess and will resume on Sunday, January 7. Thank You to our students who wrote Christmas cards to the residents of Cherry Hill Manor and to the students who coordinated the St. Nicholas Wonder Worker Advent project.

Our Lady of Grace Calendar

Sunday, December 31, 2017: Open House at Rectory following 9:00 Mass



The Religious Education Children will be having a "Living Nativity" at the 4:00 PM Mass on December 24th.

Attendance at Mass for Students

If you are from another church and your church requires that you must bring a bulletin signed by a priest or deacon back to your parish as proof of attendance please get **PROOF OF ATTENDANCE** form in sacristy before or after mass.



This Weekend: December 16th/17th :

Lectors:

- 4:00 L. Buono
- 8:30 J. Parisi
- 10:30 F. DiBiasio

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

- 4:00 C. Dardeen, P. Leoncavallo Broccoli
- 8:30 R. Parisi, D. Buffi, S. DiIori
- 10:30 S. Mansolillo, L. Mansolillo P. Williams

Altar Servers:

- 4:00 Ni. Broccoli, C.Colavita,
- 8:30 B. Winsor , V. Winsor
- 10:30 N. Williams, R. Andereson

Next Weekend: Dec. 23rd/24th/25th :

Lectors:

- 4:00 L. Florio
- 9:00 R. Parascandolo

Christmas Eve:

- 4:00 K. Colavita
- Midnight F. DiBiasio

Christmas Day:

- 9:00 R. Poli

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

- 4:00 E. Cabral, P. Leoncavalho, B. Dardeen
- 9:00 B. Civetti, R. Poli, J. LaSalandra

Christmas Eve:

- 4:00 E. Cabral, A. Broccoli, C. Colavita
- Midnight S. Amalfitano, M. Amalfitano, B. Rivelli

Christmas Day:

- 9:00 S. Cabral, S. DiIorio

Altar Servers:

- 4:00 Ni. Broccoli, A. Broccoli
- 9:00 M. Colardo, M. Colardo

Christmas Eve:

- 4:00 A. DiSanto, C. DiSanto
- Midnight R. Cola, L. Gondreau

Christmas Day:

- 9:00 J. Clark, J. Grossi

MASS INTENTIONS



SAT: December 16: Vigil of Third Sunday of Advent

4:00 Louise Spremulli Chiaramonte
Req. by: Joe & Eleanor

SUN: December 17: Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 Angelo & Mamie Carlino
(Christmas Remembrance)
Req. by: Children

10:30 Marie Cornachione (8th Anniv.)
Req. by: Family

MON: December 18:

8:00 Joseph & Felicia Joyce
Req. by: Family

TUE December 19:

8:00 Elsie & Manule Martin
Req. by: Family

WED December 20:

8:00 Deceased Members of the Joyce & Martin Families
Req. by: Family

THU December 21:

8:00 No Mass

FRI: December 22:

8:00 No Mass

SAT: December 23: The Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:00 Joseph Fratus (Memorial)
Req. by: Wife & Family

SUN: December 24th 4th Sunday of Advent

9:00 Michael Marsocci
Req. by: Family

SUN: December 24th Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

4:00 Tommy Caramante (34th Anniv.)
Req. by: Family

MON: December 25th: The Nativity of the Lord

12:00 A.M. Traditional Midnight Mass
Maryann Cerrone & Frances Grasso
Req. by: Family

9:00 A.M. Christmas Day Mass
Members of the OLG Memorial Society

PARISH DIRECTORY

Holy Services

MASSSES: Saturday Vigil: 4:00PM
Sunday 8:30AM and 10:30AM
Monday through Friday 8:00AM

Chaplet of Divine Mercy: Saturday at 3:00PM

Holy Rosary: Saturday at 3:30PM

Pastor

Rev. Peter J. Gower

PERSONNEL

Facilitator of Rel. Ed	Mrs. Joanne Burley
Secretarial/Office	Mr. Paul Goulet
Building Superintendent	Mr. Joseph Quartino
Music Minister	Mr. Jeff Del Gigante
St. Anne Sodality President	Ms. Fran DiBiasio
Holy Name Society President	Mr. Louis Mansolillo

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation: Saturday 3-3:30PM or by appointment.

Baptism: Second Sunday of each month, during the 10:30AM Mass. Please contact rectory to schedule baptismal instructions.

Matrimony: Notify parish priest at least one year before anticipated date of wedding for necessary pre-marriage arrangements and preparation.

Holy Orders: If you have a heartfelt desire to serve the Lord, by preaching His Eternal Word, by celebrating the Sacraments, and by assisting His people in need, you may be among God's chosen for a vocation to the priesthood. Speak to a priest today, or contact the Office of Vocations at 831-8011.

Ministry To The Ill

Please notify the rectory when a parishioner or family member is hospitalized, or confined at home or in a nursing facility.

Church Address: 15 George Waterman Rd., Johnston, RI

Mailing Address: 4 Lafayette St., Johnston, RI 02919

Telephone: Rectory – (401) 231-2220

Religious Ed. (401) 231-8959

FAX: (401) 231-3905

Parish email: ourladyofgraceri@aol.com

Pastoral Council: olgparishcouncil@gmail.com

Rectory Office Hours: Monday through Wednesday

9AM – 1PM

Thursday

9AM – 1PM

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