

# Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Roseland, New Jersey



## Welcome & Ministry Guide

**“So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:13**

## **Contact Information & Mass Times**

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament  
28 Livingston Avenue  
Roseland, New Jersey 07068

Phone # 973-226-7288  
Fax # 973-226-4893

E-mail: [parishinfo@olbs.org](mailto:parishinfo@olbs.org)  
Website: [olbs.org](http://olbs.org)

For weekly information on events happening in the parish,  
please see our parish bulletin

### **Sunday Masses**

Saturday (Anticipated): 5 pm  
Sunday: 8 am, 10 am, and 12 noon

### **Weekday Masses**

6:45am; 8:45am

### **Holy Day Masses**

6:45am, 8:45am, 12:05pm, and 7:30pm

### **Confessions**

Saturday: Immediately following the 8:45 Mass  
Other times by appointment

We always welcome new parishioners and ask that you register. Forms are available in the church vestibule or at the parish office. If you are registered and have any information changes or are moving out of the parish, we ask that you please notify the parish office at 973-226-7288.

## Ministry & Parish Groups

As a parish community, we, at **Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament**, take the message of the Lord Jesus seriously and seek to live out the Gospel each day as individuals and as a community of faith. One way in which the Gospel is lived is through our active involvement in the mission and ministry of OLBS Parish.

Since the Second Vatican Council in the 1960's, members of the laity in the Catholic Church have realized and rejoiced in the recognition that, by virtue of their Baptism, they are called to become active members of their local faith community through participation in parish ministries, committees and societies.

This listing is intended to give all of our parishioners an overview of the various ministries, committees and societies that are a vital part of the life of our parish. We invite all of our parishioners – newcomers and “veterans” alike – to look through this listing and see how God may be inviting you to share your time and talent with the parish, to become Stewards of OLBS.

This listing is divided into four cluster groups: [Word, Worship, Community Building and Service](#). The ministries within the [Word](#) cluster recognize that we proclaim the word of God from the pulpit and in a classroom as well as various other means. [Worship](#) ministries involve parishioners in our communal prayer and worship at Sunday or daily Mass. As a parish, we recognize that we are brothers and sisters in the Lord, united one to another. Our [Community Building](#) ministries and committees strengthen those bonds of unity through social interaction. Last but not least, we as a parish are committed to care for one another. Through our [Service](#) ministries, we seek to reach out to those in need, both within the parish and “beyond our walls.”

Please pray that you will be open to the many ways found in this listing through which the Lord may be inviting you to become a Steward of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, a person willing to donate your Time and Talent to our parish community.

## **WORD CLUSTER**

### **Baptismal Family Outreach**

Baptism outreach members visit families that are having their baby baptized and bring a packet of information about Baptism and about OLBS. Team members also assist at the Masses where children are baptized. They are asked to visit one family a month on average and to assist at Mass every few months.

Contact person – Patty Braga - [patty@olbs.org](mailto:patty@olbs.org)

### **Baptismal Garment Makers**

During the rite of Baptism, a small white garment is placed over the person being baptized as a sign that they have “put on Christ,” that they have risen with Christ. The garment is embroidered with a cross to signify the redemption that Christ won for us when he died. At OLBS, these garments are made by parishioners so that the initiation of the newly baptized is much more personal. The sewing and embroidering is done by individuals in their homes whenever their schedules allow.

Contact person – Patty Braga – [patty@olbs.org](mailto:patty@olbs.org)

### **Religious Education Catechist**

The OLBS Religious Education Program is in place so that all of our parish children attending public school may receive age-appropriate education and formation in our faith in grades 1-8. Classes meet on Sunday morning, Monday afternoon & evening and Tuesday afternoon for 60 minutes. Men and women from our parish volunteer their time to share their faith and to teach our children what we believe about God and the Church. We provide a training program that helps those who volunteer to fulfill their ministry as catechists.

Contact person – Cathy Gibbons – [cathy@olbs.org](mailto:cathy@olbs.org)

### **Religious Education Volunteers**

Our parish Religious Education program also needs men and women who volunteer, but who are not directly involved in teaching within a classroom setting. Examples of what such volunteers would do: classroom aides, hall monitors, substitute for catechist, baking for meetings, etc.

Contact person – Cathy Gibbons – [cathy@olbs.org](mailto:cathy@olbs.org)

### **Faith Sharing Group**

During Advent and Lent, when the Church calls us to reflect more deeply on our baptismal calling, our parishioners have the opportunity to participate in a faith sharing group. This group, comes together to reflect upon the Scriptures, especially on the following Sunday's readings; to share faith stories; to pray together and to offer mutual support in deepening their own faith lives. Although each group is unique in its membership, style and format, each group reflects on the Sunday Scripture readings or on various spiritual themes.

Contact person –Fr Stefano Hong– [frstefano@olbs.org](mailto:frstefano@olbs.org)

### **Pre-Cana Team**

Engaged couples, intending to marry at any Catholic parish in the Archdiocese of Newark, are required to attend a formation program in preparation for their wedding. This program is offered once a year at OLBS in the spring. Married couples in our parish present talks, based on their own lived experience, on a variety of topics related to Christian married life. Time is provided for couples to share with each other and to reflect upon some important aspects of their future lives together. Married couples in our parish are invited and encouraged to consider becoming part of the Pre-Cana process in different and important ways.

Contact person – Fr. Stefano – [frstefano@olbs.org](mailto:frstefano@olbs.org)

### **Vacation Bible School**

For one week in the summer, OLBS hosts this fun and biblically educational experience for our young people. There is much preparation and energy that goes into a successful VBS. Volunteers can come with many different creative talents including, arts, crafts, music, cooking, decorating, dancing, singing and storytelling.

Contact person – Cathy Gibbons – [cathy@olbs.org](mailto:cathy@olbs.org)

## **WORSHIP CLUSTER**

### **Lectors**

At every Sunday and daily Mass, men and women proclaim the readings taken from the Word of God, the Scriptures. This ministry allows those who attend Mass to hear God's word so that they may be nourished to lead the Christian life more fully and to be comforted by this gift from God. Readers receive proper preparation before they proclaim God's word at Mass.

Contact person –Bob McGuirk - [bob@olbs.org](mailto:bob@olbs.org)

### **Ministers of Holy Communion**

When we gather for the celebration of the Eucharist, men and women minister the Body and Blood of the Lord. These ministers allow those who come to Mass to receive not only the Body of Christ, but the Blood of Christ as well. Ministers receive appropriate preparation in order to minister the Eucharist with dignity and respect.

Contact person –Dennis Murray– [dennis@olbs.org](mailto:dennis@olbs.org)

### **Greeters**

We always want those who come to worship with us to feel welcome, therefore, we have begun a new ministry here at OLBS. We invite men, women, teenagers and families to minister as greeters, people whose primary ministry is to welcome those who come to pray with us. In this capacity, they help those who have difficulty with walking or with coming into the church.

Contact person –Fr Stefano Hong– [frstefano@olbs.org](mailto:frstefano@olbs.org)

### **Music Ministry**

Music is an essential part of our prayer together since it touches the heart as well as the mind. When we sing, we pray twice. Our music ministry has many areas where people's talents can be used: adult

choir, youth choir, children's choir, holiday choir (adults and children), contemporary choir, instrumentalists (keyboard, guitar, brass, percussion). Your talents allow us to praise God in word and in song.

Contact person – Donald Pennell – [don@olbs.org](mailto:don@olbs.org)

### **Altar Servers**

Adults and children alike are invited to become altar servers, assisting the priest who is celebrating Mass. For children, those in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade and in upper grades are invited to become altar servers. Usually, boys and girls act as altar servers at Sunday Masses, while adults usually serve at daily Masses or funeral Masses.

Contact person– Fr Stefano Hong– [frstefano@olbs.org](mailto:frstefano@olbs.org)

### **Altar Servers (Funerals)**

Because our funerals generally take place during the morning hours, our regular altar servers cannot serve since they are in school. We rely on the help of adults who are usually free in the mornings and can serve at a funeral. Not only is this a way to participate in the worship life of the parish, it also allows us to offer support to the family of the deceased by our presence.

Contact person – Fr Stefano Hong – [frstefano@olbs.org](mailto:frstefano@olbs.org)

### **Liturgy of the Word with Children**

Since it may be difficult for young children, up to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, to understand the readings and homily at Sunday Masses, children at our 10:00 Sunday Mass are invited to go to the school for a celebration of the Lord's word, presented at a level that they can more easily understand. Men and women volunteer to lead these celebrations on Sunday or to assist the leader.

Contact person – Cathy Gibbons – [cathy@olbs.org](mailto:cathy@olbs.org)

### **Liturgy/Spirituality Committee**

A group of parishioners, interested in deepening the communal worship of our parish, come together with the pastor and staff members involved with preparing for our worship to offer their input and suggestions for ways in which our celebration of the Eucharist and the sacraments can be enhanced. These men and women are often liturgical ministers themselves with liturgical resources available to them.

Contact person – Fr Stefano Hong – [frstefano@olbs.org](mailto:frstefano@olbs.org)

### **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**

The RCIA is the process through which adults are fully initiated into the Catholic faith community. Those who would like to become a Roman Catholic, that is, adults who have never been baptized as well as those who have been baptized into another Christian religion, participate in this process. The RCIA process is also open to baptized Catholics who have not yet received First Communion and/or Confirmation and who have received little or no formal religious instruction. Those who become catechumens (the unbaptized) or candidates (baptized Christians) meet on a regular basis with team members who assist them on their spiritual journey. Those who want to be a part of the RCIA team “walk” this journey of faith with these adults and share their own faith with them.

Contact person – Fr Stefano Hong – [frstefano@olbs.org](mailto:frstefano@olbs.org)

### **Art/ Church Environment Committee**

A group of our parishioners dedicate themselves to decorating our church for particular liturgical seasons, such as Christmas & Easter as well as other months of the year. They work in conjunction with our Coordinator of Liturgy and our parish Liturgy Committee.

Contact person – Jim Cochran – [jim@olbs.org](mailto:jim@olbs.org)

### **Ushers**

This ministry involves men and women who help to seat people in the church, take up the collection on Sunday, ask members of the

congregation to take up the gifts and distribute the weekly bulletin after all the Sunday Masses.

Contact person – Fr Stefano – [frstefano@olbs.org](mailto:frstefano@olbs.org)

## **COMMUNITY BUILDING CLUSTER**

### **Parish Events for Family & Children**

The activities of this ministry seek to develop programs and events which will strengthen the faith and unity of the families of OLBS. Such activities would include, but not be limited to: Drive-In Movie, Advent Wreath Making, Halloween Party, Parish Picnic, Breakfast with Santa.

Contact person – Patty Braga – [patty@olbs.org](mailto:patty@olbs.org)

### **Hospitality Committee**

This committee ministers to the parish community by inviting parishioners after special Masses to socialize over coffee and..... These Masses include: the biannual Anointing Mass, All Soul's Mass, St. Joseph's Day Mass, Welcoming Masses, etc.

### **Mom's & Tots**

An informal social group for moms, dads, grandparents, babysitters and any caregiver and their children from infant to toddlers. We meet one morning a week; so please come, join us for a morning of play, sharing and friendship.

Contact person – Patty Braga – [patty@olbs.org](mailto:patty@olbs.org)

### **Social Life Committee**

This committee organizes activities, whose purpose is to build up and unite the parish community through a number of social events. Some of these activities are the annual Parish Picnic, Columbus Day Pasta Dinner, Ice Cream Social and the International Dinner.

Contact person – Patty Braga– [patty@olbs.org](mailto:patty@olbs.org)

### **Youth Ministry**

All teens of the parish, age 13 and up, are invited to come to our weekly meetings in our youth room. Youth group offers teens a safe place to come hang out, pray together, discuss tough issues and just have fun. We offer many community service and outreach programs throughout the year, as well as lock-ins, retreats and Living Stations of the Cross. Come to a meeting, spend some time with your friends, and build a closer relationship to Jesus.

Contact person – Patty Braga – [patty@olbs.org](mailto:patty@olbs.org)

## **SERVICE CLUSTER**

### **Bereavement Ministry**

Our parish seeks to minister to those who have suffered the loss of a loved one. Presently, this ministry offers a support group for the family of the person who has died. By listening to others who have suffered a loss through death and by sharing their experiences of grieving, this group helps ease the grief that accompanies any death.

Contact person – Msgr. Chris– [msgr.chris@olbs.org](mailto:msgr.chris@olbs.org)

### **Building & Grounds Committee**

Members of this committee work with the pastor, the business administrator and the maintenance personnel of the parish to offer advice regarding issues related to maintaining the buildings of our parish plant. The members of this committee usually have experience and expertise in construction and other related fields.

Contact person – Jim Cochran – [jim@olbs.org](mailto:jim@olbs.org)

### **Finance Council**

This committee is a consultative body to the pastor, assisting in the stewardship of the parish's financial resources. Made up of parishioners with diverse backgrounds, including professional expertise, this committee seeks to offer sound financial advice while recognizing the pastoral needs of the parish.

Contact person – Msgr. Chris – [msgr.chris@olbs.org](mailto:msgr.chris@olbs.org)

### **Social Concerns**

Our parish has a very active committee who runs many projects to help the poor and needed throughout the year. These projects include: Giving Tree, Food Pantry, Food Gift Certificates, Blood Drive, Cooked Chicken Pans, just to name a few. Each year, through the great work that they do, this committee serves many people who are in need.

Contact person – Fr Stefano – [frstefano@olbs.org](mailto:frstefano@olbs.org)

### **Parish Pastoral Council**

This body consists of men and women of the parish who comes together 5-6 times per year. Parishioners become members of the Parish Pastoral Council through a process of prayerful discernment. The entire parish nominates men and women whom they believe will best serve the parish in a position of lay leadership. They are essentially a consultative body to the pastor. However, their primary

role is to be the "dreamers" of the parish, committed members of this faith community who seek to formulate a vision for our parish. They look at the mission of the parish, as given to us in the Gospel message of Jesus, and determine ways in which we are called to live out that mission in our particular area of Essex County and beyond. They also listen to the parishioners of OLBS who seek to bring their concerns to light so that they can be discussed and addressed.

Contact person – Msgr. Chris – [msgr.chris@olbs.org](mailto:msgr.chris@olbs.org)

### **Prayer Shawls & Needle works**

The care and love of knitting and crocheting have been combined into a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort and reassurance. Handmade knitted and crocheted items are made to be a reminder to the persons receiving them that they are covered in prayer and wrapped in God's Love. Our knitting ministry is made up of dedicated people who meet every other Wednesday. No previous knitting experience is required.

Contact person – Deb LaMonica – [patty@olbs.org](mailto:patty@olbs.org)

### **Prayer Chain**

As a community of faith, we believe in the power of prayer. Members of our parish form a "prayer chain" and lift their voices to the Lord, asking his help for those who have called or emailed our parish office and requested prayers for themselves, a loved one or a friend.

Contact person – Patty Braga – [patty@olbs.org](mailto:patty@olbs.org)

