

**St Joseph's Como-Oyster Bay Catholic Church** Fr. Jerzy Chrzczonowicz PP e-mail:jerzy1junior@hotmail.com, mobile: 0411 125 357 210 Oyster Bay Road, Como, Ph: 9528 0205.

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Office Mon. 12:00 – 3:00pm Thur. 8:00am – 3:00pm .School Principal: Mr Allan Fagerstrom PO Box 447, Jannali 2226. Phone: 9528 8716 [info@stjcomo.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stjcomo.catholic.edu.au)

**Our sick:** Grace Di Matteo, Josefa Dabu, Terry Quaily, Rita Webb, Josie Lay, Christine Woodard, Marko Radmil, Maria Suszycka, Urszula Kaminska, Andre and Thea Van Gastel and friends from the Chesalon Home & housebound

**WEEKEND MASS TIMES**

Saturday Vigil: 6pm (for Summer)

Sunday: 8am, 9.30am

**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:**

Mon 6.45am Tues 7.30pm Wed 9am

Thurs 6.45am Fri 9.00am Sat 9.00am

**HOLY HOUR: Saturday 8.00-9.00am**

**RECONCILIATION:** 10 mins before

Mass and Saturdays 8.00 – 8.55am

**BAPTISMS:** at 9.30am Mass

**BAPTISM Prep** Thurs. 1st February 2018

7pm meeting room

**WEDDINGS:** By appointment.

**ANOINTING MASS:** next:

6th and 7th January 2018

**NOVENA OUR LADY**

**DIVINE MERCY** Tues. 6.30pm

[www.vocationcentre.org.au](http://www.vocationcentre.org.au)

**EWTTN-Kids** (internet catechism)

**CatholicNewsService**

**Sat. 9 am:** For the Holy Souls **Vigil 5 pm:** John & Olga Nasser, Suzanne McGoldeid; **Sunday 8am:** +Mr and Mrs Nolan; **9.30am** +Papa's and Aunty Maree's Souls  
**6pm** Pro Populo **11pm** Pro Populo **Mon: 8am** +Jaroslaw Kollar **9.30am** +Teresa and Wilhelm **6 pm** Decease Relations **Tues: 7.30 pm+** Jaroslaw Kollar

Christmas Eve is a Sunday this year.  
On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December our usual Masses are 8am and 9.30am.  
Christmas Eve Sunday evening 24<sup>th</sup> December  
Family Mass 6pm Christmas Carols 10.30pm Night Mass 11pm  
Christmas Day Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December  
8am 9:30am 6pm

**Please note: From 27 December to 5 January** all daily Masses will be celebrated **at 9am** by Fr Witold. Weekend 30 /31 January Mass times as usual.  
From **6 January to 12 January** daily Masses will be celebrated as usual by Fr. Bob as well as on the weekend 6 / 7 January. Fr. Jerzy will be on annual leave.

**Christmas envelopes are available for your consideration to support our retired and disadvantaged priests.**

**Audio-visual for readers' resource:**  
<http://catholicreadings.org>

Readers please pick up the new Roster from the back of the Church

Displaying lit candles in the windows arises from the British persecution against the Catholic Church in Ireland. Since the time King Henry II invaded Ireland in 1171, persecution against the Irish has existed. This persecution increased tremendously in the wake of the Protestant movement, especially under Elizabeth I and then Oliver Cromwell. Despite this persecution, the Catholic faith kept the Irish strong. Bishops and priests continued to minister to the people, traveling circuits and offering Mass on "Mass rocks" in open fields. Hiding behind hedges, which provided easy look-out and escape, schoolmasters continued to teach the children, not just regular studies, but the faith and Irish heritage; they were thereby given the name "Hedge Schoolmasters." And so the Irish people held true to their faith and culture. With this in mind, we find the use of candles in the windows. During Christmas, every faithful Irish Catholic family hoped to have a priest visit their home so that they could receive the sacraments and in return offer him hospitality. So they would leave their doors unlocked and place candles in the windows to signal a priest that he was welcome and would be safe. Sometimes, a single candle would appear in several windows, or three candles in one window, one each representing Jesus, Mary and Joseph. However, we must never lose sight of its meaning and historical background. As we celebrate Christmas, may we also open our hearts and homes to Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Christ is our light, who entered this world to scatter sin and darkness. Having been enlightened by Christ through Holy Baptism, we must have a strong loyalty to our Church. We too must realize that the greatest gift of all is our faith, a faith which enabled the Irish to triumph over the most heinous persecutions.

**Blessed Christmas and Prosperous New Year**



The fourth and last purple candle, often called the "Angels Candle," represents peace and is lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Lk 2:13-14)

On Christmas Eve, the white center candle is lit. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ that has come into the world. The color white represents purity. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Savior. Those who receive Christ as Savior are washed of their sins and made whiter than snow: "Come now, let us settle the matter," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." (Is 1:18).

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> from 11:30am – 1pm will be held BYO, ham, bread, butter, tea, coffee and Christmas concert will be provided in Church Hall. Do not stay at home alone

**Rosters 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> December 2017**  
Linen: Julie O'Hara; Cleaning: 29<sup>th</sup> December: **Volunteers Required**  
Readers: Mary Harrison, Brian Phillips; Natalia Kollar, Ian Robinson; Agnes Lim, Sandra Moore  
Communion: Julie O'Hara, Terry O'Hara; Barbara Shales, Aidan Gleeson; Linda Gillies, Jeanette Hickey  
Homebound: Peter Madden, Linda Gillies,  
Chesalon: 27<sup>th</sup> December 2017: Margaret Duffey

**Rosters 30<sup>th</sup> And 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017**  
Linen: Julie O'Hara; Cleaning: 5<sup>th</sup> January 2018 Robyn Crowe, Irene Riley  
Readers: Rose-Marie Hoekstra, Jennifer Kratz; Elizabeth Pemberton, Alec Pemberton; Linda Gillies Ray Wooby  
Communion: Elizabeth Pemberton, Greg Conroy; Kathy Cattnach, Madeline Salway; Linda Gillies, Sandra Moore  
Homebound: Linda Gillies, Ray Wooby, Ada Bajt  
Chesalon: 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018: Rose-Marie Hoekstra

From January 2018 Weekly Rosters will only be published on Website with a copy on the Church noticeboards, not in the