



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

3:30 - 4:30 Saturday
(In the church)



THE MASS

Sat vigil - 5:00 PM
(In the church)
Sunday - 7:30, 9:00 &
11:00
Mon-Sat - 9:00am



MEETINGS - VIDEO CONFERENCING

ZOOM

OMPH NEWSLETTER

July 26, 2020

Dear Friends,

This coming Saturday, August 1st, we celebrate the Feast day of St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori, C.Ss.R. We at OMPH Parish are truly grateful and delighted to celebrate this great day in honor of the saint who founded the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer. We know him through the service of our beloved Redemptorist priests and brothers who have served us here at OMPH Parish. In the spirit of St. Alphonsus, they lead us into the heart of the Redeemer through their own practical and real-life human experiences. They make Him approachable by ordinary means to know the extraordinary Mystery of His love.

St. Pope John Paul II describes Alphonsus as *“a close friend of the people....a missionary who went in search of the most abandoned souls...a founder who wanted a group which would make a radical option in favor of the lowly...a Bishop whose house was open to all...a writer who focused on what would be of benefit to people.”*

Alphonsus Liguori was born in 1696 near Naples to a captain in the Royal Navy and his devoted wife. They saw to it that their son had a well-rounded and solid education. At the age of 16, he had earned a doctorate in both canon and civil law and became a lawyer according to his father's plan. During this time he also compassionately and devoutly served the sick at a hospital for the "incurables." He was an exceptional lawyer, but despite his success, it did not satisfy him at the deepest levels of his heart and soul. After losing what was the most important court case he had ever taken on, Alphonsus left the legal profession to enter the priesthood.

As a young priest he worked himself to the point of exhaustion. Caring for the poor, wherever his journey took him, was the hallmark of his calling. He was passionately on fire with the love of Christ and was determined to live out this passion for Him.

Alphonsus desired to dedicate himself even more to the poor and most abandoned. He left Naples and gathered others around him who found a similar calling to a ministry of "mission among the people." This was the start of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (the Redemptorists). These men lived in community in the country bringing "mission revivals" regularly to the people of the area. They brought confidence to these people that they would not be neglected or abandoned. Alphonsus knew how to reach the people. He spoke to them in real and practical terms. His preaching was not lofty and condemning but sensible and commanding. His writings were popular spiritual sustenance for the common people.

Although he was sickly for much of his life, Alphonsus' final years were marked by very serious and debilitating physical ailments, especially arthritis, which caused him great pain and confined him to a wheelchair. He also was plagued with spiritual afflictions, scrupulously fearing he hadn't done enough to serve the God he loved so much. To help him through these times, his confreres gathered with him to pray. They always included the Litany of Our Lady, usually followed by the rosary. They read to him from his own writings about the glory of Mary and how, as heaven's queen, she welcomed all her true and faithful servants at the hour of their death.

JULY 26, 2020

Early in the evening on July 31, 1787, Alphonsus made one final request. "Give me my lady," he whispered. They placed a picture of Mary in his hands. He spent the night in prayer with the Blessed Mother. The next day at the stroke of the noon Angelus, Alphonsus died at the age of 91.

A little over two thousand years ago, a man named Jesus attracted many followers. Peter, James and John, to name but a few, they gave up everything and became disciples.

For almost three hundred years now, thousands of men from all over the world have been attracted to the spirit of this one man, St. Alphonsus Liguori, missionaries to the most poor and abandoned. Like the early disciples, men continue to abandon their nets for the truly most abandoned, those souls most in need of love and mercy.

To all Redemptorist brothers and priests living and deceased, we give thanks for the many years of dedicated service to the church and we ask through Our Mother of Perpetual Help that all Redemptorists someday be reunited by our Redeemer around the table of the Heavenly Banquet with St. Alphonsus our founder.

God bless,

Fr. John



The Redemptorist Coat of Arms

Copiosa Apud Eum Redemptio - With Him There is Plentiful Redemption



Medal on Rosary worn on Redemptorist habit - one side the **Redeemer**, the other **St. Alphonsus** (our founder)

MASS SCHEDULE - as of July 12, 2020

Saturday vigil, 5:00pm	in the church
Sunday, 7:30, 9:00am & 11:00am	in the church (<i>live-streamed</i>)
Weekdays, Mon - Sat, 9:00am	in the church (<i>live-streamed</i>)

Distribution of Holy Communion

Sunday, 12:15 - 12:45	under the church drive thru
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PARISH ACTIVITIES RESUMING - as of July 5, 2020

Confessions Saturday	3:30 - 4:30 in the Church (<i>please wear mask</i>) * right side - anonymous (<i>curtain</i>)
Adoration Friday	Immediately after 9:00 Mass until 4:00pm
Church Visiting Hours	Mon. thru Fri. 9:00am - 4:00pm

DON'T FORGET

Holy Hour Friday	3:00 - 4:00 Divine Mercy Chaplet & Benediction
Fr. Jim's Flourishing Family Lessons	Stay tuned for times

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARISH BULLETIN

Due to the Pandemic we have not been distributing our weekly parish bulletin. Also, the bulletin company had to lay off their workers temporarily so as not catch the virus. The workers are back and we will soon be distributing a new parish bulletin. We have been working on a brand new lay out for the bulletin and in a few weeks the bulletin will be distributed. I want to thank all those who have supported our parish by taking out an add in the bulletin, *thank you*.

ENTERING PARISH BUILDINGS DURING TIME OF PANDEMIC

We ask you when you enter any of the parish buildings to please follow the Diocesan guidelines set forth during the time of pandemic.

If you are coming to Mass:

- ◆Please be sure to wear a mask for your safety and those around you
- ◆Please be sure to sanitize your hands when coming into church
- ◆Please be sure to safe distance when on church property
- ◆Please follow the usher's instructions for seating and receiving communion
- ◆Families living in the same household do not need to distance from each other
- ◆Responding with *prayers-responses* at Mass encouraged, but singing is not at this time

- ◆Please do not congregate inside or outside of church at this time
- ◆If you are not feeling well we ask you please not to come to church. We are live-streaming the 9:00am and 11:00am Mass for all those who cannot come to church

If you would like to visit the parish office (*mass intention, meeting, or other parish business*):

- Parish secretary's hours until August 31: Tuesday and Friday, 8:00am - 3:00pm
- Parish secretary's hours starting August 31: Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 3:00pm

Please note: the parish office will be closed all next week - please call if you have an emergency

- ◆Please be sure to wear a mask
- ◆Please be sure to sanitize your hands when entering the building
- ◆If you are not feeling well we ask you please not to come into the parish building, but to call us or email the parish office and we will try to be of assistance to you in any way we can

Church Ministry Takes on New Responsibility During Pandemic OMPH Church Cleaners - Sanitizing the Church

The Church Cleaners at OMPH have volunteered to sanitize the church after the weekend masses on Saturday and Sunday. The Church Cleaners are a ministry in our parish and they perform a wonderful ministry of cleaning the church. They come into the church, they do their work and they are gone, they are truly humble servants.

They will be assigning different members of their group to each weekend Mass, but they are looking for more members to join their ministry team - ‘many hands make light work’ as the expression goes!

You are welcome to help the Church Cleaners sanitize after the weekend Masses even though you are not formally a member of the ministry team.

As we hear in the Gospel, “**To anyone who has, more will be given.**” You will receive a hundred fold for your kindness.

If you’re interested in joining the Church Cleaners, please call Sandy Kurz at 717-733-9453

NEW PARISH APP - *myParish*

Last weekend we invited our parishioners to download our new parish app, called *myParish*. Each week for the next 16 weeks we will highlight a different feature of the app. If you have an iPhone or and Android this is the app for you. It's simple to use, it helps our parish to be more connected and to deepen our relationship with the Lord Jesus.

Parish App Feature-of-the-Week



Parish Info

- Easily contact our parish
- Helpful list of parish staff
- Connect with staff at the touch-of-a-button

Learn more or download our parish app at mymyParishapp.com

*Available on Apple and Android Phones.

First Friday Holy Hour

Dedicated to the Canonization of Rev. Michael J. McGivney. Join us in prayer every First Friday at 3:00 as we pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament for the canonization of the Founder of the Knights of Columbus - Rev. Michael J. McGivney

A Holy Priest is Closer to Sainthood

A Connecticut priest who founded one of the largest Catholic organizations, the Knights of Columbus, is one step closer to sainthood.

On May 27th, Pope Francis recognized a miracle attributed to the intercession of Michael J. McGivney, who died at 38 of pneumonia in 1890 during a pandemic.

The first American parish priest to be beatified, McGivney will soon be declared "blessed." An additional miracle would need to be attributed to him in order for McGivney to be canonized as a saint, the Vatican said.

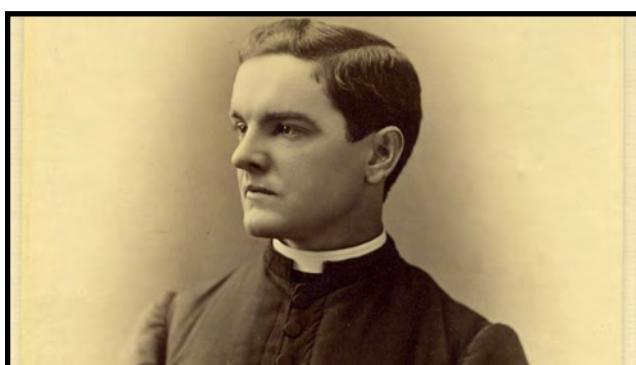
A portrait of Connecticut priest Father Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, dressed in 19th century cassock with Roman collar. (Courtesy Knights of Columbus Multimedia Archives)

The Knights of Columbus said the miracle recognized by the pope concerned the medically inexplicable cure of a baby with a life-threatening condition. The baby was healed in utero in 2015 "after prayers by his family to Father McGivney."

He was best known for founding the Knights of Columbus in 1882 in New Haven.

Today, with more than 2 million members around the world, the charitable organization has provided critical relief during the coronavirus pandemic, donating millions of dollars to food banks, supplying hospitals with ventilators and financially supporting Catholic dioceses.

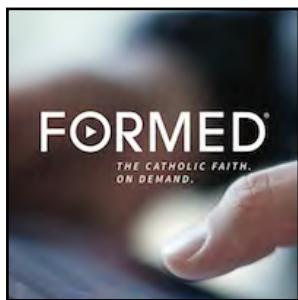
McGivney, born in Waterbury in 1852, played a vital role in the growth of the Catholic Church in the U.S., serving a largely Irish-American and immigrant community in New Haven, Catholic News Service reported.



"Fr. McGivney has inspired generations of Catholic men to roll up their sleeves and put their faith into action. He was decades ahead of his time in giving the laity an important role within the Church," Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson said in a statement.

"Today, his spirit continues to shape the extraordinary charitable work of Knights as they continue to serve those on the margins of society as he served widows and orphans in the 1880s." (from Fox News)

FORMED



This Catholic website (formed.org) is truly one of the great treasures available to our parishioners - and it's free. All you need to do is go to the website formed.org and search for our parish and then register. On formed.org you can access thousands of movies, religious programs, audios and books - instantly. Here you can watch some of the best Catholic movies, children programs, and engage in entertainment that supports a Catholic lifestyle.

There are bible stories, stories of saints, documentaries, and sacramental preparation materials. What's great, you can watch it anywhere.

PARISH ACTIVITIES DURING PANDEMIC

HOLY HOUR & DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET LIVE-STREAMED EVERY FRIDAY - 3:00 PM

I really look forward to the Holy Hour each Friday with the Blessed Sacrament exposed as we chant the Divine Mercy Chaplet. We're also praying for an end to the Pandemic, for the victims of the virus, and for all those who are sacrificing to keep us safe - first responders and health care professionals. During the Holy Hour we are also praying for all of the needs of our parishioners. During the hour of prayer we are also reading a Visit to the Blessed Sacrament by St. Alphonsus Liguori with a prayer of Spiritual Communion. This is a difficult time, but Our Blessed Lord has promised us that He would never abandon us - He is with us always, join us for this very special time of prayer.



FR. JIM'S FLOURISHING FAMILY LESSONS

I want to thank Fr. Jim for putting together such wonderful video programs for our families during this difficult time.

While Fr. Jim is focusing on the family, he is also reaching out to the children in the parish on a separate day.

You can see Fr. Jim's programs on Facebook and on the parish website - please watch for times on the parish website and Facebook.

All of Fr. John's and Fr. Jim's previous talks can be viewed on the parish website (omphchurch.com).

NOVENA TO OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP

We are so fortunate to have OMPH as our patroness here at our parish. The Wednesday Novena is always a good reminder to me of all the graces that flow through our Blessed Mother to us to protect us and to keep us safe. She truly is our mother, may we continue to run to her in total confidence and trust. As we celebrate our parish feast we are particularly thankful for all the graces we have received through the loving arms of Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

NEW PARISH WEBSITE

Please do not forget to visit our new parish website (omphchurch.com), we are constantly updating it with new information, such as the latest videos from Fr. Jim and Fr. John, the weekly newsletter, church and local news, new photos, calendar changes, and so much more. Also, there is a place for you to make suggestions to the pastor or to make any comments you wish - we want to stay connected the best we can.

Our Mother of Perpetual Help Catholic School COVID-19 Tuition Assistance Fund

As a result of the Coronavirus, our families are facing significant challenges in their lives, including unemployment and loss of income. Our students had to transition from a traditional classroom education to at home distance learning.

Our OMPH School community remains steadfast in our support of our students during this pandemic. Our faculty continues their commitment to our children with digital instruction and support. Our faith community is kept strong with online Daily Prayers, the Weekday Rosary, School Mass and Family Flourishing Lessons.



To support our students and their families in need, Our Mother of Perpetual Help Catholic School has established the COVID-19 Tuition Assistance Fund.

A gift to this specific fund can lessen the financial burden for our families so that we may continue to empower our students to reach their fullest potential, spiritually and academically.

DONATE NOW AT

<https://osvonlinegiving.com/4431/Home/NewQuickGive>

www.omph.org, Facebook @OMPHEphrata

OR Mail donation to: Our Mother of Perpetual Help School - Development Office

Prayer for Families

We bless your name, O Lord,
for sending your own incarnate Son,
to become part of a family,
so that, as he lived its life,
he would experience its worries and its joys.
We ask you, Lord,
to protect and watch over this family,

We ask you, Lord
to protect and watch over this family,
so that in the strength of your grace
its members may enjoy prosperity,
possess the priceless gift of your peace,
and, as the Church alive in the home,
bear witness in this world to your glory.
We ask this thought Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Please don't forget to wear your masks at church, thank you!





SOMETHING NEW

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Theme: The kingdom of God is a treasure beyond price.

Breaking Open the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's Gospel, the short version

Step One: Listen to the Word

As you listen once again to this familiar parable, what caught your ear in it today?

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: If you could be with Jesus, what would you trade from your own things for that?

Question for Youth: Today's gospel reminds us that God's kingdom is worth sacrifice. What do you need to sacrifice in order to follow God in your own life? Why are you willing to make that sacrifice?

Question for Adults: Using Jesus' parable as your starting point, describe in your own words what the Reign of God is for you personally, and use a parable to describe it: "The reign of God is ____."

Prayer for the Canonization of Father Michael J. McGivney

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify your venerable servant Father Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (*here make your request*). Through Christ our Lord. Amen. *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be*

The family is the "Domestic Church." This is the first 'church' where we are taught to come together and pray - perhaps in new and different ways. This is an opportune time for families to come together and pray - perhaps in new and different ways. Please check out the website below, it is loaded with many wonderful and varied prayers.

Also, I have enclosed at the end of this newsletter a program for **Sunday Prayer at Home** that can be prayed by the entire family. Since families are unable to receive the Eucharist at this time, the faithful are encouraged to make a **Spiritual Communion** (enclosed) which is encouraged by many of saints including St. Alphonsus Liguori.

JULY 26, 2020

SUGGESTED WEBSITES: STRONG CATHOLIC FAMILY FAITH

<http://www.catholicfamilyfaith.org/praying.html>

NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY

<https://nfcym.org/covid19/>

THE UNITED STATES ASSOCIATION OF THE CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

<https://www.cgsusa.org/homepage/covid-19-response/>

MASS INTENTIONS - Masses that were scheduled will still be said in private. To schedule a new Mass intention, please call the Parish Office at 717-733-9641.

Thank you



A word of thanks to the Community of Redemptorists at St. Clement's for allowing OMPH to use their beautiful front lawn for our First Communion, Confirmation, and Graduation celebrations.

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